

THE Hongkong Weekly Press

AND

China Overland Trade Report.

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DEATH.

At the General Hospital, Shanghai, on the 5th September, 1899, ALEXANDER THURBURN, aged 63 years.

DEATH.

At Ashinoyu (Japan), on the 5th September, CHARLES CARRIA, the beloved only son of Mrs. R. Wortmann and late of the Imperial Chinese Postal Service, aged 22 years.

ARRIVALS OF MAILS.

The French mail of the 11th August arrived, per M. M. steamer *Luos*, on the 9th September (29 days); the Canadian mail of the 22nd August arrived, per C. P. R. steamer *Empress of Japan*, on the 12th September (21 days); the American mail of the 17th August arrived, per T. K. K. steamer *Hongkong Maru*, on the 14th September (28 days); and the English

mail of the 18th August arrived, per P. & O. steamer *Coromandel*, on the 15th September (28 days).

EPITOME OF THE WEEK.

Dr. Morrison, the *Times* correspondent at Peking, was a passenger by the M. M. steamer *Ernest Simons*. He will visit India on his way home.

Commander St. John, formerly of H. M. S. *Peacock*, has denied that he ever said that General Otis was an old woman, as reported in an alleged interview published in an American paper.

We note that in the report of the Shanghai Health Officer malaria is included under the heading of "Infectious diseases notified in the Foreign community." We believe the theory has recently been advanced amongst Hongkong doctors that the disease is infectious. Dr. Stanley seems to regard the theory as already established.

The *Universal Gazette* is authority for the statement that Germany has demanded from China a recognition that "the whole region south of the Yellow River, as far as and including Kaifengfu, the provincial capital of Honan, shall from henceforth be conceded as lying within the limits of Germany's sphere of influence," and that no reply has, as yet been given to this demand.—*N. C. Daily News*.

When one reads of excursion trains being run to the Great Wall of China the fact that after all there is some movement in the country is brought home to one. In the *Peking and Tientsin Times* we read that weekly excursion trains from Peitaiho to Shanhaikwan and beyond the Wall are now being organized, and will be run every Saturday throughout September. Cheap trippers at the Great Wall!

A private telegram from Peking received at Shanghai on the 9th September states that Emperor had managed to write a letter to the Emperor of Japan which a confidential eunuch succeeded in taking to the Japanese Legation for transmission to Tokio. The letter contained an appeal to the Emperor to rescue the writer from his imminent danger of deposition and death at the hands of assassins.—*N. C. Daily News*.

The British ship *Jane Burrell*, from Newcastle, Australia, with a cargo of coal aboard consigned to Smith, Bell & Co., was totally wrecked on August 18th last off the N. W. coast of the Island of Libago, in the Basilan Straits. The captain, two mates and seventeen of the crew were picked up at sea by the U. S. S. *Castine*, which transported them to the U. S. Transport *Butuan*, bringing them to Manila.—*Manila Times*.

Some trouble recently occurred at Talienswan over the purchase of Chinese lands by Russians, who offered Tls. 8, Tls. 6, and Tls. 4 per *mow* according to quality. Some malcontents thereupon stirred up the people, and assured them the Russians would heavily tax them, and at last succeeded in creating a riot in which some injury was done. The Russians at last succeeded in making the people understand, and offered to pay Tls. 8 *mow* all round for the land.—*China Gazette*.

Kang Yi, the High Financial Commissioner, arrived from Shanghai on 8th Sept. by the *Aspin* and immediately transhipped to the gunboat *Kwong Hing*, in which he proceeded to Canton. He is attended by a numerous retinue.

The Chinese officials Lin and Ching, who have been several weeks in Japan on behalf of the Chinese Government, returned to Shanghai on the 8th September. Their time is said to have been mainly occupied in inspecting Japan's dockyards, factories, and industrial enterprises generally.

It is stated in reliable quarters at Peking that the fact that several powerful Viceroys, Governors, and Ministers of the Court have presented secret memorials to the Empress Dowager strongly deprecating any steps leading to the deposition of the Emperor have made her hesitate in placing a new occupant upon the throne. It is significant also that of the memorialists not a single one was of Manchu descent.—*N. C. Daily News*.

A delegate of the Ceylon tea industry who some time ago visited Russia reported to the British authorities various violations of commercial treaties with Great Britain in the different Customs charges on tea which gave preference to the overland trade through Siberia. The result of the negotiations with the Russian Government is that China teas going overland will in future have to pay the same as Ceylon and China teas entering Russia via Odessa.

The pirates operating on and about the West River are said to number sixty thousand. They are well armed and the movement savours almost as much of rebellion as of piracy, the pirates edging the local authorities out and proceeding to collect the duties and taxes themselves. It is not an unprecedented state of affairs. In the sixteenth century pirates went so far as to blockade Canton, and it was only with the assistance of the Portuguese that the blockade was raised. Are they on the present occasion to be allowed to gather sufficient strength to again blockade the provincial capital, or will the British Government sweep away the evil before it further ripens? A contributor, in an article entitled "The Pirates of the Lower West River" throws out some hints as to the measures that should be taken.

The typhoon which passed over Japan at the end of last month wrought great havoc. The *Kobe Chronicle* of the 2nd September says:—As reported in yesterday's issue the destruction of property and the loss of life caused by the typhoon of the 28th ult. turns out to be much greater than was at first supposed. On the island of Shikoku, more especially on the eastern Iyo province, the damage done has been very serious. In the Uma and Mii districts, as far as could be ascertained up to the 29th ult., 143 houses had been washed away. At Besshi-yama-mura in Uma district, 1,000 lives were lost, while at Kaseko-mura in Mii district 307 people are missing. At Nii-hama-mura in the same district 31 fatalities are reported. A large number of houses were also flooded in consequence of a breach in the river banks. On receipt of the news of the disaster at the Kencho, the Governor and some of the officials at once proceeded to the scene to render assistance to the distressed people. A number of the members of the Red Cross Society were also on the spot.

THE CHINA ASSOCIATION ON THE PROTECTION OF ENGLAND'S SPHERE IN THE YANG-TSZE VALLEY.

(Daily Press, 13th September.)

The logical and ably written letter of the local Branch of the China Association on England's sphere of Influence in the Yangtze Valley, which we reproduce in another column, will be read with sincere satisfaction, not only by the residents of Hongkong, but by all British subjects in the Far East. The importance of strengthening the garrison of Hongkong has been repeatedly dwelt upon in these columns, and it is reassuring to find that the Association has been pressing the same matter, though from a different point of view, the reason they urge being the necessity of having a mobile force available for service wherever required without weakening the garrison proper. There should be in Hongkong, say the Committee, not necessarily forming part of the garrison proper, but under the command of the General and subject to the requisition of our Minister at Peking, a small but complete force of all arms, mobile in all respects, ready to answer any call, whether from Wuchow or from Hankow. "This additional force," the letter continues, "is required anyhow, for our own protection at the open ports in the event of any rebellion or serious disturbance. It is indispensable if we are to maintain an effective sphere of influence anywhere in China, for we must be prepared to make that influence effective for the protection not only of our own people but of all foreigners, or else see Russia or Germany or France installed within our sphere doing the work we ought to be ready and willing to do."

The particular sphere in view is that of the Yangtze Valley. What the Committee recommends is, in effect, the Egyptianising of the Yangtze Valley. It is pointed out that China is fast disintegrating, and such emphasis do the Committee lay upon this point that, having stated it at the close of the third paragraph, they repeat at the opening of the sixth that "the disintegration of China is proceeding rapidly." With this disintegration going on it is urged that the Central Government is unable to afford protection, that Foreign States whose subjects are attacked will, if no other means are available, speedily send their own forces to protect their subjects and compel attention to their rights, and that therefore Great Britain, if she wishes to preserve a sphere of influence for herself, must be prepared within that sphere to coerce the Chinese Government and its officers and to afford adequate protection to all foreigners and all foreign enterprises properly there. Hongkong is to be the headquarters from which that protection is to be extended. It will probably not be long before the recommendations of the Association are carried into effect, and perhaps on a larger scale than the Committee appear to have contemplated. Where the forces of barbarism and civilisation are brought into contact the former must give way before the latter, and in China the question for Great Britain is to what extent she herself will represent the forces of civilisation and to what extent she will leave such representation to other Powers. No hope that in the final demarcation of spheres of influence the West River as well as the Yangtze will be fully recognised as within the British sphere.

QUARRELS BETWEEN ROMAN CATHOLIC AND PROTESTANT MISSIONS.

(Daily Press, 11st September.)

The keen animosity that prevails between Roman Catholics and Protestants in China, and the attempts made by rival factions of Natives to secure the support of the missionaries in their local disputes and clan fights, are calculated to raise a crop of serious difficulties. From various parts of the country accounts come to hand from time to time of fights between the adherents of the two forms of the Christian religion, and with the growth of Christian communities in numbers, power, and influence, we may eventually see something in the nature of a pseudo-religious war break out, if the missionaries cannot succeed in controlling their congregations better than they seem to be able to do at present. The *Ostasiatische Lloyd* in a recent number published a remarkable story of an occurrence almost on the borders of our own colony, namely, in the Tungkun district, which has a direct bearing upon this question. The story is prefaced by a few remarks to the effect that the disorder in Kwangtung exercises a prejudicial influence upon the peaceable development of the missions in the South, that mixed up in the disturbances are found Christians who, as so often happens in Kwangtung, try to make political and personal gain out of their religion, and that in quarrels not infrequently the hangers on of the Catholics are to be found on the one side and those of the Protestants on the other. The narrative of the particular occurrence in question has reached our contemporary in a fragmentary form and with what are evidently bold embellishments but the editor has heard something of the other side of the case and endeavours to hold the scales fairly. It is stated that on Saturday, the 28th July, Herr FRANZ ZAHN, a Rhenish missionary stationed in Tungkun, was informed by a few of the local Christians that the village of Pakkung, an out-station of the mission, had been attacked by a band of some three hundred men under the direction of the French priest, Father JULIEN, during the night, and had been plundered. Herr ZAHN, to whom the statement seemed incredible, immediately set out for the place, accompanied by an evangelist, to ascertain the facts. On his arrival at Pakkung he was immediately surrounded by a band of some twenty men armed with swords, pistols, and knives, who threw him to the ground and robbed him, the clothes being torn off his back. The evangelist fared no better. Herr ZAHN was then dragged into the Catholic chapel, bound hand and foot, his neck was loaded with a heavy steel chain, and he was thus placed before Father JULIEN. The latter, holding a gun in his left hand and with his fist raised, sprang towards Herr ZAHN, and seemed to be directing the people, so that Herr ZAHN took him for the head robber. In the presence of this man Herr ZAHN was also beaten and derided. To the question why he had come there Herr ZAHN made answer that he wished to visit and speak with Father JULIEN. "That is he," said all, pointing to the leader.

"We must omit," says the *Ostasiatische Lloyd*, "what took place between the two Europeans. Our authority was not present at the interview and to avoid misunderstanding we must confine ourselves to what was reported to him." This apparently cautious statement throws suspicion on the whole narrative, for it is evident

ly founded on hearsay throughout, and Chinese at that, for had Herr ZAHN been the original authority he would have been able to report the conversation. However, passing over the interview, the narrative goes on to say that on Sunday morning, after they had been compelled to sign a document which they afterwards learnt was a statement that they parted in peace, Herr ZAHN and his companion were released, and almost dead with fatigue they arrived back at Tungkun. The matter has since been represented to the German Consulate. Our contemporary's authority continues:—"It is high time something was done. The French priests carry themselves as if they were already lords of Kwangtung, and they will take advantage of the weakness of the Chinese Government to further strengthen their position. The latter knows too well what is going on to be ignorant of the priests with arms threatening not only Chinese life and property, but also the Protestant missionaries."

From another source the *Ostasiatische Lloyd* learns that Father JULIEN afterwards explained that it was correct that he had become involved in a disturbance, but stated that he was not opposed to Herr ZAHN, as the latter seemed to assume, and that if he sprang forward at the time of their interview it was for the purpose of appeasing the mob and restraining them from outrage. Our contemporary continues:—"In any case a searching enquiry by the German authorities will be necessary. Father JULIEN afterwards excused himself to Herr ZAHN and stated that the Protestants would be compensated by the Catholic mission for their actual losses. Also it seems that Father JULIEN is shortly leaving Pakkung for another district, and that he had only gone there a few months before in compliance with a request from people who, it transpired, lived in contention with their neighbours and were desirous of securing the aid of the Catholic mission." Such is the information concerning this remarkable case furnished by our Shanghai German contemporary. No one will for a moment believe that the Roman Catholic priest was in any way personally responsible for the outrages to which Herr ZAHN was subjected, and if the latter, as alleged, signed a document stating that they parted in peace it is incredible that he would do so in ignorance of its contents. So far therefore as the personal relations of Father JULIEN and Herr ZAHN are concerned no complaint seems to lie against the former. The incident, however, affords an indication of a peculiar and important movement that is going on in China, but one which does not often obtrude itself on the notice of foreign residents and which is therefore not likely to receive the attention it deserves. All over China the assistance of the missionaries is in request for political and pecuniary reasons, and keen rivalry exists between the Protestants and Roman Catholics. It is only occasionally that such a state of affairs is brought into prominence, but this happens occasionally, when such incidents as that at Pakkung are recorded, and it was only the other day that Bishops of the Roman Catholic and Anglican Churches were engaged in a newspaper controversy at Shanghai respecting the rights and wrongs of a quarrel between their respective adherents in one of the districts in which the clergy of both Churches are at work.

An interim dividend of 3 per cent. has been declared on the preference shares of the China Mutual Steam Navigation Co., Limited, this being at the rate of 6 per cent. per annum.

LI HUNG-CHANG AND THE CANTON VICEROYALTY.

(Daily Press, 9th September.)

It would be rather a surprise to see Li HUNG-CHANG installed as Viceroy of Canton. Such an appointment perhaps hardly comes within the range of probability, but rumour has made mention of it. The *Koho de Chine* in its issue of the 29th August, after referring to the reported illness of the Empress Dowager, the rivalry between Prince CHING and JUNO LU, the retirement of LIU, Viceroy of Nanking, the replacement of LIU by YU LU, Viceroy of Chihli, and the reported replacement of the latter by LI HUNG-CHANG, goes on to say:—"As if all these complications were not sufficient for the hour, it is said that Li HUNG-CHANG will not listen to any offer of a Viceroyalty except one, namely, Canton—no other, neither Tientsin nor Nanking." As more than a week has elapsed and no further mention has been made of Li's name in connection with the succession to TAN it may perhaps be assumed that there is nothing in the report. If the old statesman is to return to office, however, it is quite possible that the Viceroyalty of Canton might have attractions for him, for it is a very lucrative appointment, as his brother LI HAN-CHANG proved during his occupancy of it, while on the other hand Tientsin may have become distasteful to him under the different conditions that have come about since he occupied the Viceroy's Yamen before. Li as the Viceroy of Chihli to-day might possibly not occupy the important position he did before, but might have to play second fiddle to younger men at Peking, whereas at Canton he would occupy a position of virtual independence. Li's appointment to Canton would not at present be regarded with pleasure by foreigners in the South, in view of his character for avarice and reputed antagonism to all real progress, but the unfavourable opinion now entertained of him would undergo a complete change if he succeeded in re-establishing law and order in the distracted province, which is overrun by brigands and subject to frequent local insurrections in all directions. A strong man is wanted at Canton. Now Li, whatever his other failings, is not without force of character, and if he set himself the task of restoring order in Kwangtung he would be as likely to succeed as any other of China's foremost men, unless, possibly, CHANG CHIH-TUNG.

The situation in Kwangtung is becoming critical, has been so, indeed, for some time past, and the sooner China appoints a Viceroy capable of dealing with it, whether Li HUNG-CHANG or some one else, the better it will be for her own interests. The province in fact stands in urgent need of pacification, and if China is unequal to the task it will have to be accomplished for her by Great Britain, and this for two reasons, first, that we cannot allow trade to be strangled by gross incompetency and corruption in the administration, peaceful trading boats to be pirated in open day on the passage from Canton to Hongkong, and British lives to be placed in jeopardy; and, secondly, because if order be not speedily restored France is very likely to step in with a claim that the duty of pacification devolves upon her as the protector of the Roman Catholic Missions. There are great numbers of Catholic priests, the majority of them French, in the Two Kwang, and various outrages upon the missions have taken place that have not yet been atoned for, and still more are likely to take place in the future if the present lawlessness is

allowed to continue. The object of acquiring Kwangchauwan was to set up a claim to a sphere of influence in Kwangtung, and also to have a convenient base when it shall be deemed a propitious moment to translate influence into interference. Having the French designs plainly before her eyes, therefore, Great Britain cannot regard with indifference the continuance of anarchy in the province. She would, however, prefer to see China set her own house in order, and China, if there is any wisdom still to be found in the land, will act while yet there is time.

THE DREYFUS CASE.

(Daily Press, 12th September.)

Dreyfus's conviction upon his second trial will have taken most people completely by surprise. The friends of the accused had worked so energetically and ably, such odium and ridicule had been poured upon the case for the prosecution, that it was assumed that the ordering of a fresh trial was almost equivalent to an acquittal. The result has falsified that assumption. There is, however, a wide difference between the sentences of the two courts. Upon his first trial DREYFUS was sentenced to transportation for life, while the sentence now passed upon him is ten years imprisonment. It would seem, therefore, that in the opinion of the second Court the first Court either convicted the prisoner of a more heinous crime than the evidence warranted or passed an excessive sentence. The charge was that of having divulged military State secrets to a foreign Power, and if that were fully proved, to the extent of establishing deliberate treachery, no one could consider transportation for life an excessive sentence. Apparently, therefore, the second Court must have found circumstances that reduced the crime in degree. A man in a position of trust might conceivably betray secrets in various ways without deliberately wicked intention, as, for instance, by simple carelessness in leaving confidential papers lying about, or by allowing himself to be "drawn" in conversation, the latter being a trap into which well meaning men may fall, especially susceptible men subjected to the influence of feminine charms.

In the case of DREYFUS no one, we think, looked for anything but an acquittal or a reaffirming of the sentence of the first Court, and the brief Reuter's telegram published to-day does not enlighten us as to how the second Court has arrived at a middle course. From previous intelligence, however, we know that in his examination DREYFUS admitted that he had had relations with "an Austrian woman," though he said he was guiltless of the indiscreet conduct attributed to him in the revelations that had been made in connection with the incident. He also admitted having visited Alsace privately in order to study the transport question, but he denied that he had ever spoken to or dined with any German military officers. It would appear, notwithstanding his explanations, that the Court must have been fully satisfied that State secrets did become known through DREYFUS, and under circumstances that call for exemplary punishment. Considering the conditions under which the second trial has been conducted the verdict of the Court, provided it has been arrived at unanimously, will, we should think, command public confidence. The first trial was conducted for the most part with closed doors, and the ground on which the decision was afterwards impugned was that the *bordereau* or incriminating document was insufficient to prove the pri-

soner's guilt and that if no alleged the conviction was arrived at on other evidence it was secret evidence not communicated to the prisoner or his counsel. In the late trial the examination of the *bordereau* was conducted with closed doors, but presumably in the presence of the prisoner and his counsel; otherwise the proceedings were conducted in the full light of day with a force of three hundred journalists present to report them. The case has destroyed several reputations and thrown suspicion on the French General Staff as a body. The trial just concluded will, it may be assumed, result in the elimination of the objectionable elements and the restoration of confidence and discipline.

(Daily Press, 14th September.)

The proposal to boycott the Paris Exhibition on account of the DREYFUS affair, as telegraphed by Reuter, is rather suggestive of hysteria. It is much the same as though foreigners had agreed to boycott an English Exhibition on account of the Tichborne case. Hundreds of thousands of people believed that ARTHUR ORR was the real heir to the Tichborne baronetcy and estates and that his conviction of perjury was a miscarriage of justice. So no doubt many people all over the world will continue to believe DREYFUS innocent, and innocent he well may be, since his guilt has not been proved to the satisfaction of all the members of the Court that tried him; but so far as can be judged at this distance and with the scanty information before us, there is no reason why the decision of the Court should not be treated with respect. The decision against DREYFUS was given by a majority of five to two. In our own Supreme Court many cases, both criminal and civil, have been decided by a bare majority of four to three on the jury, and such decisions have been treated with respect by the public. In the DREYFUS case it was clearly shown that the prisoner did not in the first instance receive a fair trial, but it did not necessarily follow from the unfairness of the trial that the prisoner was not guilty. It was also shown that many members of the General Staff were unprincipled and malignant, but that again does not prove that the object of their malignancy was clean handed. A second trial was ordered and so far as appears from the telegrams that have been received it was conducted with decorum. It may be that after the Court was placed in possession of all the evidence and arguments a majority of the members arrived at an erroneous decision, and did so knowingly and corruptly, but the latter is rather a large assumption to make. The people on the Continent and in America who have started the movement to boycott the Paris Exhibition have the proceedings of the Court before them and are in a better position to form an opinion on the justice of the case than we at a distance are, but Reuter leaves us in the dark as to whether their action reflects public opinion or the opinion of a section. We have not been told what the opinion of the Press is, whether it is divided or is unanimous in condemning the decision. The decision has certainly taken the whole world by surprise, and it would have been interesting if Reuter had informed us of the character of the comment it excited. From the fact that the Court admitted extenuating circumstances it is to be inferred that what it found the prisoner guilty of was indiscretion rather than deliberate treachery, and although the sentence has been reduced from transportation for life

to ten years' detention even the latter seems an extravagant punishment for a crime that does not involve a high degree of moral guilt. It appears there is still another appeal, by which we may be permitted to hope that the prisoner may be enabled to fully establish his innocence. Until he does so, however, we cannot see sufficient ground for supposing that the decision of the Rennes Court Martial was not in accordance with justice.

CHINA AND ARBITRATION.

(Daily Press, 14th September.)

Some years ago, when coercion in Ireland was the question of the day, a cartoon appeared in *Punch* representing a school-master with rod in hand and a cheeky schoolboy, the latter prepared to maintain in argument that "force is no remedy." The proposal to refer the *Kowshing* claim to arbitration suggests the question whether the theory that force is no remedy is to be applied to China and whether all our difficulties with that country are to be referred to arbitration. Arbitration may perhaps be an acceptable form of settlement in the case of the *Kowshing*, which turns on a question of legal liability and not on the intentional wrong-doing or culpable neglect of the Chinese Government, though we imagine that had any other Government had such a claim to present on behalf of its subjects it would have demanded a prompt settlement under threat of reprisals in case of non-compliance, and the case would never have been allowed drag along to the arbitration stage. However that may be, the British Government has now suggested arbitration, and presumably China will accept the suggestion. Thereafter we may expect to find China herself suggesting arbitration upon the claims pressed upon her from time to time by the Foreign Powers, and sometimes the suggestion may possibly prove a little embarrassing, for China cannot be admitted to a full equality with the civilised Powers and must occasionally be subjected to coercion. Sustained coercion indeed is what she requires. But coercion is not a condition that can very well admit of arbitration, since it implies the overriding of certain abstract rights, and a court of law would be deprived of its accustomed landmarks in trying to arrive at an equitable decision. China's proposals for arbitration therefore will probably not command acceptance unless in special cases.

SUPREME COURT.

September 11th.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE THE HON. W. MEIGH GOODMAN
(ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

BELILIOS V. COXON.

In this case the Hon. E. R. Belilios, C.M.G., sought to recover from George Lionel Stewart Coxon certain moneys due to him on promissory notes.

Mr. E. Robinson (instructed by Messrs. Deacon and Hastings) said he appeared on behalf of the plaintiff in this suit. He believed the defendant was not represented. Proof of service was on the file. He proposed simply to call Mr. Belilios to prove the notes.

The Hon. E. R. Belilios, on being sworn, said he was a merchant carrying on business in Hongkong, Companion of the Order of St. Michael and St. George, and a member of the Legislative Council. The note produced for \$10,000 was in his favour and was made by Mr. George Lionel Stewart Coxon. It had an endorsement on the back to Mr. Beyers, who was his London agent, and it had a re-indorsement by

Mr. Beyers to him. It bore interest at the rate of seven per cent. Upon that promissory note payments had been made from time to time on account of principal and interest, the last payment being one of \$95.5 made on November 19th, 1895. He produced an account showing the payments made from time to time. From this account it appeared that on 22nd February last \$7,881.88 was still owing. Mr. Belilios also produced a promissory note for \$37,936.87 made by Mr. Coxon in his favour and dated July 31st, 1893. Nothing had been paid on this note. There was no mention of interest but payment was due on demand.

Formal evidence was given by Mr. H. W. Looker.

His Lordship gave judgment on the first note for \$7,881.88 and interest at seven per cent. from the date of the writ till judgment, and eight per cent. hereafter; and on the second note judgment for \$37,936.87 and interest at eight per cent. from the date of the writ till judgment, and hereafter eight per cent., together with costs.

13th September.

IN ORIGINAL JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR W. MEIGH GOODMAN
(ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

CHEUK TAI TAI V. CHEUK SAN.

This was a claim for cattle forming part of Tsang Kun Kin's estate.

Mr. Melbourne (instructed by Mr. H. J. Holmes) appeared for the plaintiff, and Mr. Robinson (instructed by Messrs. Wilkinson and Grist) for the defendant.

The petition recited that the plaintiff was a spinster residing at No. 50, Ship Street, and the defendant a dairy farmer carrying on business at 3 and 4 Tai Luk Lane, Shek Tong Tsui. On the 9th of September, 1898, letters of administration of all and singular the personal estate and effects of Tsang Kun Kui, late of Victoria, widow, farmer, deceased, were granted to the plaintiff, and the plaintiff sued the defendant as such administratrix. The deceased at the time of her death was possessed of or was entitled to certain cattle, and after the death of the deceased and the granting of letters of administration the defendant detained from the plaintiff the said cattle and the increase thereof, and the plaintiff had been unable to obtain possession of the cattle. The plaintiff claimed the return of the cattle or their value.

Mr. Robinson said the plaintiff had no money with which to pay the costs, and suggested that he should confer with his learned friend Mr. Melbourne for a few moments with a view to arriving at a settlement.

His Lordship said the question was whether the cattle did belong to the estate. The defence was that they did not belong to the deceased at all, but to the defendant. It seemed to him to be a case for compromise.

Mr. Robinson said they were in this position. The other side had no money to pay the costs. The plaintiff had no means really.

His Lordship thought this was one of those cases in which there was a doubt, and it seemed to him that a small addition to the means of the plaintiff and the defendant to be left in possession of some of the cattle would be the best solution. If no arrangement could be come to they must fight the question as to the ownership of the cattle.

It transpired that the defendant was the adopted son of the deceased and the plaintiff the sister of the deceased.

It was ultimately agreed on behalf of the defendant to return four of the cattle and to pay \$75 towards the plaintiff's costs, this offer being accepted.

14th September.

IN BANKRUPTCY JURISDICTION.

BEFORE HIS HONOUR W. MEIGH GOODMAN
(ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE).

RE FUCKEERA MAHOMED.

This debtor again came up for his public examination.

In reply to the Official Receiver (Mr. Bruce Shepherd) the debtor said he was a property broker and a business broker and came to Hongkong in 1862. Before then he was a godownkeeper. He first got into difficulties in 1894, when some people to whom he had lent money ran away. Then he had lent from \$6,000 to \$7,000. He first began to borrow money in 1893. He paid interest at the rate of from three to five per cent. per mensem. He expected to make one per cent. per mensem on it, so he charged from 45 to 60 per cent. per annum. During the last three years he had borrowed about \$24,000, and in the same time he had paid into his bank \$55,000 to \$56,000, or about \$18,000 per year, that was \$1,500 per month—all money borrowed. Out of this money he had lent some to people who had run away, paid interest, household expenses, and some creditors. His household expenses were about \$100 a month. His statement of affairs showed \$45,000 owing by him. On promissory notes he owed about \$14,500. The difference was accounted for by interest—\$10,000 and more. The amount paid out included a great deal of interest. He did not keep books. He had not been to school. He knew how he stood with his creditors because he remembered. Changing new promissory notes with his creditors every year helped him to remember. He kept the old promissory notes and thus he knew his debts. He did not keep any ledger account. He did not write perfectly. When he paid off a creditor he kept the old promissory note; thus he kept his account. Sometimes for his remembrance he kept a memo. on a piece of white paper. He never went to school in India. He was ten years of age when he came to Hongkong. He could not read perfectly; he could not understand. He did not go to people for their money; they brought it to him because they knew he was doing the business. Most of them were Government servants. He lost about \$30,000 for them. They charged him 36 per cent interest. Sergeant Tom Ford, Police Sergeant, lent him \$1,894 at 36 per cent. per annum. The Government lenders were mostly in the police; none were in higher offices. The amount he had paid into the bank did not include his winnings on lottery tickets. He had insured his life for \$3,000, and mortgaged the policy to A. G. Stokes, to whom he owed \$3,000. His wife was not wealthy. She was as poor as he was. He gave her \$8 a month as pocket expenses. She lived in a different house from him. He had not given her jewellery for the past four years. She was old and did not care for jewellery. There had been a meeting of his creditors, who had agreed to accept 50 per cent. if he paid \$50 per month. He would pay it out of his brokerage obtained in business. His relations would assist him. He sold some of the jewellery he got from Falconer and Co., and he paid \$5,000 to Falconer and Co. The rest of the jewellery he pawned. He still owed them \$4,000, and the rest was interest. He had never been a bankrupt before or made a composition with his creditors. He was against gambling.

On being further examined by Mr. Gedge, who represented the creditors, the debtor said he first commenced obtaining jewellery from Falconer in December, 1895, when he bought \$15 worth. He also bought goods at different times in 1896, 1897, and 1898. Among these goods was a hunting watch, which he pawned to pay his creditors. When he bought the watch he told Falconer and Co. that he was in difficulties, and they told him that his difficulties had nothing to do with them. He told them a long time before he bought the watch that he was in difficulties, yet they trusted him. He pawned a diamond ring and some diamond earrings for \$115 in order to pay his creditors. He pawned some jewellery in January and February of this year. According to his reckoning he had paid Falconer and Co. about \$5,600. The last time he bought from Falconer and Co. was in January, 1899. He became insolvent in 1894, the money he owed being greater than what people owed him.

The public examination was closed.

The *Manila Times* says its statement that the U.S.S. *Helena* would have to come to Hongkong to have her shaft repaired was based on wrong information. The work has been done at the Cavite ship.

THE CHINA ASSOCIATION ON ENGLAND'S SPHERE OF INFLUENCE IN THE YANG-TSZE VALLEY.

The following letter from the Hongkong Branch of the China Association to the parent Association in London is published with the local Branch's report for 1897-99:—

Hongkong, 23rd May, 1899.

The Hon. Sec., China Association, London.

SIR,—My Committee desire to call your attention to one aspect of the present position in China to which no consideration has as yet, so far as the members of this Branch are aware, been given, but which is nevertheless of importance in connection with the policy of spheres of influence recently adopted by our Government and embodied in the Anglo-Russian Convention just concluded.

2.—The Association's letter to Lord Salisbury of July last year, and your communication to the *Times* of the 14th April, in which you embody some pregnant extracts from that letter, emphasise the very different positions taken up by Russia and Germany in Manchuria and Shantung, and by Great Britain in the Yangtze Valley.

Russia and Germany, claiming spheres of influence in these portions of China respectively, are making that influence effective. They are excluding all interference within these regions by any other Powers. They are monopolising or claiming the right to monopolise all railway, mining, and special commercial privileges within their boundaries. They have at hand sufficient force to make their claims respected, and they have no hesitation in applying that force when need be to put down all opposition and prevent any disobedience.

England, in the Yangtze Valley, which can hardly be said to have any definite understanding with China as to her so-called sphere of influence, has, as the German Minister so clearly pointed out to Lord Salisbury the other day, taken no steps whatever to give effect to such understanding as she may have with the Chinese Government and has permitted, as you have so well pointed out, her sphere of influence to be invaded by the Russo-Franco-Belgian combination to whom the construction of the Peking-Hankow Railway has been ceded.

3.—In a country like China, so hostile to foreigners and to foreign ways, broken up into so many semi-independent governments, with the Central power so weak, troubles and disturbances of all kinds may arise at any moment and from many sources, and attacks may be made on the persons and properties of foreigners engaged about this railway and on the railway itself during its construction. Such attacks, such disturbances, will give rise to claims for redress, to demands for more effective protection, to requests for compensation. The central government is too weak to give either defence or protection. The provincial governments will do nothing except under compulsion. The Foreign States whose subjects have been attacked and whose rights and properties have been interfered with will, if no other means are available, speedily send their own forces to protect their subjects and compel attention to their rights. If once Russian, or German, or French forces are moved into the interior of China for such purposes, they will remain there and be justified in remaining there, for the weakness and inability of the Chinese Government to control its own Viceroy and its own subjects is becoming greater and more marked every day. China is fast disintegrating.

4.—What is the only remedy? Great Britain must be prepared, within her so-called sphere of influence, to coerce the Chinese Government and its officers, and to afford adequate protection, within that sphere, to all foreigners and foreign enterprises properly there. Only by so doing can she claim or exercise the right to exclude foreign flags and the armed forces of foreign nations, and maintain her sphere of influence untouched. No foreign power will allow her subjects to be murdered and their properties destroyed without interfering for their protection. The danger is that they will seek to interfere and to introduce troops and gunboats on the very slightest pretext or on no pretext at all. If Great Britain claims a sphere of influence in China and hopes

to have that sphere recognised and respected by other powers, our Government must make up its mind that that influence must be made effective within that sphere for the protection of life and property; not merely of her own subjects but of the subjects of all foreign Powers.

5.—And this brings me to my point. My Committee want to call your attention to the fact, and to press it upon you, that there is no military force available in or near China by which our Government can make its power and influence in China effective. Gunboats can only operate on main rivers, and there are only four gunboats on the station really effective for up-river work. No large body of men can be safely detached from the fleet for more than a few days. Weihaiwei has only, if one may put it so, a corporal's guard for its own defence. The garrison in Hongkong is barely sufficient, if sufficient, for the defence of the Colony, and no body of men, however small, can be prudently detached for operations at a greater distance than 24 or 48 hours or for any length of time. Recent operations in connection with the taking possession of our new territory has shewn that clearly. To occupy Sam Chun and Kowloon eighteen hundred men were moved over to the mainland, leaving a very slender garrison in Hongkong. The Volunteers were turned out and utilized at Kowloon, and 300 men had to be borrowed from the fleet.

6.—The disintegration of China is proceeding rapidly. The central power is weakening daily. Rebellions are springing up or are threatened in nearly every province. All the elements of unrest and disturbance are being let loose. Any of the open ports may need assistance at any moment, and there is no movable column of troops available anywhere to send to their protection. The interior is full of foreigners prospecting in all directions and liable at any moment to be attacked. If there is a call for protection from our own subjects, they must be protected. If the subjects of other Powers are plundered and murdered, or in danger, especially within our sphere of influence, the Yangtze Valley, they must be protected or avenged by us and by our forces, or their own country will send armed men to do so. If that happens, our influence is gone.

7.—There should be in Hongkong, not necessarily forming part of the garrison proper, but under the command of the General and subject to the requisition of our Minister at Peking, a small but complete force of all arms, mobile in all respects, ready to answer any call, whether from Wuchow or from Hankow. Fifteen hundred men is probably the smallest number that would be fully effective for the purposes in view. Two thousand five hundred would be ample, and they might all be Indian troops, but they must be complete and prepared to take the field at any time. Our troops here are not capable, for want of proper camp equipment and transport, of any expedition to any distance or for any time. This additional force is required anyhow, for our own protection at the open ports in the event of any rebellion or serious disturbance. It is indispensable if we are to maintain an effective sphere of influence anywhere in China, for we must be prepared to make that influence effective for protection not only of our own people but of all foreigners, or else see Russia or Germany or the French installed within our sphere doing the work we ought to be ready and willing to do.

8.—May we in conclusion beg of you to lay this matter speedily before the Executive of the Association, and before the Foreign Office. To us out here the question seems pressing and important.—I remain, sir, yours obediently,

Jno. J. FRANCIS,
Chairman.

It is stated by a vernacular paper [that Mr. d'Aro, who recently attempted to exhibit his Marionettes in Peking, was prevented from doing so the other day by the Commandant of the Peking Gendarmerie, who arrested and punished the Abbot of a monastery which Mr. d'Aro had rented and in which he had put up a stage. Mr. d'Aro was also notified that no permission had been given him to show his Marionettes, the result of which was that he has made a claim on the Chinese authorities for £1,800 for his expenses from Tientsin to the Capital.—*N. C. Daily News*.

GENERAL GASCOIGNE ON THE MILITARY OPERATIONS IN THE NEW TERRITORY.

OFFICERS MENTIONED IN DESPATCHES.

In Saturday's *Gazette* are published further papers relating to the military operations in connection with the disturbances on the taking over of the New Territory in continuation of those already published. The further papers consist of a despatch from the General Officer Commanding to H. E. the Governor and the Under-Secretary of State. In concluding his despatch to the latter, General Gascoigne says:—

It is not my desire to write this letter as a despatch of great military importance, but I am confident that if this rising had not been so promptly met from all sides as it was, it would have assumed very formidable proportions, as it is now discovered that it had been most carefully planned beforehand, and a small success might have created very serious complications, if not a rising, in the whole Southern Provinces of China, which are always ripe for rebellion. As it is, a grave impression has been created, and that without any serious loss of life. It is only right therefore that I should bring to your notice the names of those officers to whom the credit of this is due. Lieut.-Colonel The O'Gorman first of all, who, by his untiring pertinacity in keeping touch with and following up the insurgents, contributed in great measure to the early quelling of the trouble. Captain C. B. Simmonds, R.A., and Captain Berger, Hongkong Regiment, who were acting under command of Lieut.-Colonel The O'Gorman, both handled their men with marked ability having considerable dash and yet keeping them well in hand.

Major M. M. Morris, R.A., carried out the small operation entrusted to him with considerable tact and judgment; Captain Des Vaux, R. E., deserves great credit for the rapidity with which he, under the greatest difficulty, laid a telephone line from Hongkong to Tai-poh—a distance of over 13 miles in a hilly and difficult country.

Lastly, I would mention Captain S. B. Long, my acting C.S.O., who not only carried out the somewhat difficult duties of supplying the several camps at great distances from each other but to whom the credit of the night operations above referred to is entirely due. I have no more able officer in my Command, and I wish to bring his name to the notice of the Commander-in-Chief.

In conclusion, I would point out that some expense has been incurred, but the extent thereof I will report fully later, as I presume the question will require decision as to who will bear the cost of the same.

HONGKONG SANITARY BOARD.

The usual fortnightly meeting of the Hongkong Sanitary Board was held on Thursday afternoon. The President (Dr. J. M. Atkinson, Principal Civil Medical Officer) occupied the chair, and there were also present the Vice-President (the Hon. F. H. May, Captain Superintendent of Police), the Hon. R. D. Ormsby (Director of Public Works), Mr. E. Osborne, Dr. Clark (Medical Officer of Health), and Mr. C. W. Duggan (Secretary).

INSANITARY DWELLINGS.

Papers were submitted as to the basements of 24-30, Circular Pathway. It was stated that the places were unfit for human habitation in their present condition, and it was recommended that the owners should be given notice to render them habitable, and if this notice is not complied with to apply to the Magistrate for an order declaring the places unfit for human habitation.

On the motion of the Vice-President, seconded by the President, it was resolved to ask the Medical Officer to take the necessary steps before the Magistrate.

THE DRY EARTH SYSTEM.

The Hon. R. D. Ormsby proposed:—“That in future the dry earth system be introduced into all the Government latrines, and also, if possible, in the privately owned latrines open for public use.” He said that the system he recommended for adoption was sanctioned by

most ancient usage, being in accordance with the inspired commands for preserving the health of the inmates in their camps. Having shown in what manner the dry earth system was superior to the Chinese system, Mr. Ormsby said he spoke from experience in another colony where the dry earth system was in almost universal use, and where even in such large and crowded buildings as the Grand Oriental Hotel at Colombo no bad smells were at any time perceptible. In Hongkong they had an equally good example of how efficiently this system could be worked. He referred to the Victoria Gaol. He had frequently gone through this building, containing over 500 persons, and found it to be as free from evil smells as the best kept European houses. He must also refer to the public latrines in Canton. While visiting that city this year he entered some of these buildings and noted that they were very much less offensive than those in Hongkong, owing evidently to the liberal use of what looked to him like sawdust. Mr. Chadwick in his report on the sanitary condition of Hongkong did not say much about the dry earth system, and seemed chiefly to have been influenced by the difficulty of obtaining proper earth and the largely increased bulk of material to be removed daily. In paragraph 244 he said—"No town any size has been able to introduce the dry earth system completely. It seems most applicable to public latrines where a person can be constantly employed to apply the earth." That was exactly what was done in Colombo. The scavenging contractor was obliged to keep the supply of dry earth in the place reserved for the purpose in each latrine, and the coolie in charge threw a sufficient quantity of it into each bucket after it had been used. The poisonous nature of the contents of the public latrines in Hongkong was abundantly proved by Dr. Lowson's figures of the mortality among the keepers in 1894, eleven men out of 17, or over 60 per cent, having died of plague. This awful mortality was decreased in subsequent years by the use of disinfectants and more regular cleaning. It would be interesting to know if any men in the Gaol, where earth was used, employed in cleaning and attending to the latrines died. (The VICE-PRESIDENT: There has been no case of plague among the men who clear away the nightsoil.) He was not prepared to go further into the subject then, but would recommend that the matter be taken into consideration, and perhaps the Medical Officer of Health would undertake to report to the Board how the system could be introduced into Hongkong.

Mr. OSBORNE, after a pause, seconded. He remarked that he thought there would be great difficulties in the way of introducing this dry earth system, but Mr. Ormsby had given them very good reasons why they should try to introduce it, and he certainly thought they ought to try. They might begin in a small way. They might take one latrine for a few months and introduce the system gradually. They would of course meet with the opposition of the contractor and the Chinese generally, and throw more work on the European inspectors. In fact the experiment would be fraught with difficulties on every side; but still he thought it was one of those experiments they ought to try with a view to ridding the colony of plague, and if they failed, no harm would be done.

Dr. CLARK thought the resolution betrayed too much haste. If they were to abide by the resolution they practically put the scheme into force at once, whereas, as members knew, they had made a contract which did not expire until February, 1891. Possibly that contract might be cancelled, but he should like to move as an amendment that this matter be referred for further consideration to a sub-committee of the Board, and then the whole matter could be gone into carefully. It was a very large question indeed. They had to consider many points, one being as to whether it was possible to get dry earth during the wet season.

The PRESIDENT seconded the amendment. He thought the dry earth system was more applicable to cottages and village communities than to a large town like this. There were great difficulties in the way. They would have to have a large staff to see that the work was efficiently carried out, and then, as Dr. Clark had pointed out, during six months of the

year they had their rainy season, and it would be almost impossible to get dry earth without some artificial means of drying it. There was also the monetary consideration. At present they got \$30,000 a year from the contractor, who also paid the expenses incurred in collection. As to the suggestion that if they adopted this system they would rid the colony of plague, he thought that that was going too far. Although earth was a deodorant he did not think they could say it was a disinfectant. He thought the whole matter required careful consideration.

The Hon. R. D. ORMSBY said he would like to add that they would not be trying a new experiment exactly, because the system he advocated had been in use in the Gaol for upwards of 500 persons for a considerable time. He might also add that it was intended to substitute dry earth closets for water closets in the barracks, and it was proposed to do the same in the Naval Yard. He did not expect they would have any difficulty in getting dry earth. He thought the quantity required had been very largely exaggerated in some reports. If they had a receptacle in each latrine which could be filled on dry days, there should be no reason why there should be mud instead of dry earth. In Colombo there was the same rainfall as at Hongkong, and yet there was never any difficulty there in obtaining dry earth.

The VICE-PRESIDENT thought the system proposed was a desirable one, but they must have a definite scheme to put before the Government. If it were carried out it would undoubtedly cost money, and there were various details that had to be worked out. Therefore he should vote for the amendment.

The amendment was carried, all voting for it.

THE NEW TERRITORY.

The next item on the agenda was—"The question of extending certain of the Sanitary Laws of the colony into a portion of the New Territory."

The PRESIDENT thought all the Sanitary Laws at present in force in the colony should be made applicable to the portion of the New Territory in question. It was not necessary that they should be enforced. He also thought they should include the Building Ordinance and the Slaughterhouse Ordinance.

The Hon. R. D. ORMSBY said he had always considered that a nominal law was a great mistake, and might be made a source of oppression. As to the Building Ordinance, it was a very elaborate one for a city, and to make it apply to a village in the New Territory would be absurd.

The VICE-PRESIDENT said the particular portion of the New Territory referred to was the littoral from Lyceoon to Lychaikok, which was eliminated from the Local Communities Ordinance. It was not likely that as far as the Building Ordinance was concerned the application of that law to the New Territory would involve any great hardship. New houses and new buildings which would be erected would be houses and buildings for industrial purposes or for the accommodation of artisans, coolies, and labourers. In fact there was no doubt that in the course of years places like Kowloon City and Tsat Tsui Po would grow into large villages like Yau-mati and Hung-hom. Therefore he thought it was most important that all the Sanitary Laws and all the Building Laws and every other law which applied in this colony should apply to the places in question. If they were going to have one set of laws in Hongkong, another set for this particular portion of the New Territory, and another set for the territory behind the hills they would get into such a muddle that no one would know where they were. There were various other laws which might be applied to these places—the Licensing Laws, for instance. It was very desirable at certain times to license chairs, but they could not do it because the laws did not apply. He begged to move that they ask the Government to apply the whole of the laws of Hongkong as they stand to that portion of the New Territory which has not been included in the districts and sub-districts into which the New Territory has been divided under the Local Communities Ordinance.

Dr. CLARK, in seconding, said he quite agreed with the Vice-President that it was essential for the preservation of the health of this city that the littoral on the opposite side of the narrow strip of water should be kept as sanitary as the

laws of the colony would allow. They all knew that one of the great curses of this city from a sanitary point of view was the neglect from the earliest ages to make certain necessary provisions in connection with houses. One great drawback was the height of buildings—where people built a four-storey house in a ten-yard street and it could not be interfered with because it had been built a certain length of time. The same thing might happen over and over again, and he thought it was their duty to prepare against any such contingency by applying not only all existing laws but all future laws to the littoral opposite. He failed to see any difficulty whatever in applying the Building Ordinance to the territory on the opposite side of the harbour. It already applied to such villages as Shaui-wah, and as the Director of Public Works knew they had quite recently had stone houses built there in accordance with the Ordinance.

The Hon. R. D. ORMSBY said that if the proposal was merely that the Sanitary Laws of the colony should apply to the other side he should not be prepared to oppose it, although he thought it was rather sudden and required a little more consideration. As regarded the Building Ordinance, he was certainly of opinion it would be a great mistake to apply this elaborate city Ordinance, which was not applicable he still said to their own purpose in Hongkong, to the New Territory. He could find hundreds of houses in Hongkong and in the outlying villages where the Ordinance did not apply. This was a matter they ought not to be in a hurry about. If a man was going to put up a large factory or building of that sort he would have to purchase the land from the Crown, in which case he might be asked to send in his plans, and the plans could be considered. This would prevent insanitary blocks of buildings being put up.

Mr. OSBORNE spoke in favour of the motion. He said that no one would be bold enough to try to enforce these Building Regulations in every little hamlet on the other side, so that no harm would be done but a great deal of good by their being in a position if occasion arose to prevent the erection of insanitary buildings which might spring up.

The VICE-PRESIDENT thoroughly endorsed what Mr. Osborne had said and advanced further arguments in favour of his proposition.

On the matter being put to the vote the motion was carried.

AN APPLICATION GRANTED.

An application for permission to erect two urinals in a house to be rented by the R. A. Officers' Mess was referred to the surveyor.

RINDERPEST.

Mr. A. Watson, Acting Inspector of Live Stock, reported to the Acting Medical Officer on the 7th September that two animals admitted into the Cattle Depot from Kowloon on the 5th instant subsequently appeared to be sick. On the morning of the 7th instant one of the animals was found dead, and from an examination of the carcass the Inspector was of opinion that it died from rinderpest. The other was still under observation. Reporting on the 9th inst. the Inspector said the animal having developed no further symptoms of sickness he passed it and had it slaughtered.

Dr. Lowson (then Acting Medical Officer of Health) reported on the 7th inst.—"I regret to report that yesterday four animals (three bullocks and one heifer) were admitted to the observation shed at Lap Sap Wan with signs of rinderpest. I saw them this morning. They were suffering so severely from rinderpest that anticipating sanction I ordered them to be destroyed at once, as they were in a painful condition. They arrived from Nam Tau yesterday—the same place as the two came from which were affected at Kowloon Depot earlier in the week. I have no doubt the Chinamen know they were sick when they were imported. No compensation is paid in this case."

MORTALITY RETURNS.

The mortality statistics for the colony of Hongkong for the week ended September 22nd showed a death rate of 19.7, against 22.4 for the previous week and 19.1 for the corresponding week last year.

The mortality returns for Macao for the week ended August 27th showed 52 deaths. This was all the business.

RIVAL LAUNCH-OWNERS.

LIVELY DOINGS AT SHA U CHUNG.

VILLAGERS ARMED WITH KNIVES AND FIRE-ARMS.

Another illustration of the rough and ready way of doing things which obtains in China is forthcoming. Since the New Territory was taken over there has been an appreciable improvement not only in the included area but across the border, and this has necessitated the providing of better facilities for getting from one place to another. For some months now a couple of launches, belonging to rival owners, have gone from Hongkong to Sha U Chung, a village on the Chinese shore of Mira Bay, and back daily, and a fair business has been done in carrying passengers. Naturally there has been no love lost between the owners of the different launches, and with the view to securing a monopoly one of them came to some terms with the authorities at Sha U Chung, undertaking to pay so much per head per passenger if the exclusive right of landing passengers was accorded him. The owner of No. 2 launch refused to recognise this arrangement, and continued to land passengers as before, in spite of all opposition.

A few days ago things reached a climax. No. 2 launch was fired upon by the other launch and by some people who had assembled on the beach, and in consequence she did not land all the passengers, but returned to Hongkong with some of them, and the occurrence was reported to Captain Superintendent May. This was on Wednesday, 6th Sept., and in consequence of this report Mr. May, so as to get at the truth of the matter, decided to send Sergeants Sullivan and Sim and a couple of Chinese detective sergeants to investigate. Accordingly when the launches left Hongkong the police followed, and when they had arrived at Fotchoh, No. 1 launch being by this time out of sight, they got aboard No. 2 launch and secreted themselves in the cabin. In due time Sha U Chung was reached. Then a lively scene was witnessed. Getting No. 2 launch between her and the beach No. 1 launch fired two shots at her. At the same time a large number of people, armed with knives and fire-arms, who had been seen wildly gesticulating on the beach, rushed into the water as the accountant of No. 2 launch stepped into a boat to land, and battered him most unmercifully. He clambered back into his launch, his assailants still making for him, and at this juncture the police made their appearance. The water being included in British territory the police took the No. 2 launch in charge, arresting five men aboard her, and brought her back to Hongkong. The five prisoners were taken to the Central Police Station and the accountant, who had been badly pommelled, to the Hospital.

The prisoners were brought before Mr. Gomperts at the Magistracy on the 8th.

Mr. D'Almada appeared for the prisoners and asked for a remand.

Chief-Detective-Inspector Hanson said the complainant was not able to appear. He was in the hospital, and the previous day was vomiting blood. The Captain Superintendent had gone to Sha U Chung to make further enquiries. The hearing was adjourned.

Mr. D. Almado asked for bail to be allowed.

His Worship said he could not grant bail until a further report from the Hospital. The man might die.

THE HON. F. H. MAY'S VISITS TO SHA U CHUNG.

STILL AT LOGGERHEADS.

It transpires that disputes about the shore at Sha U Chung are of old standing and that several clan fights have taken place about it, and as the villagers of Sha U Chung and neighbourhood are a very rowdy lot these fights have been carried out with much rancour, and quite a number of the combatants have been killed in them. Within the last few days Captain Superintendent May has paid several visits to the mainland with the object of bringing about a settlement, but he has not been successful, and in the meantime a police launch is

on duty to see that the disembarkation of passengers from the friendly launch takes place without opposition.

The Captain-Superintendent went to Sha U Chung in the first instance in torpedo-boat No. 2, which was in charge of Lieutenant Stuart, on Friday, 8th Sept., arranging to arrive at about the same time as the rival launches. Owing to the heavy sea, however, the monopolist launch had to put back, and the disembarkation of passengers from the friendly launch was allowed to take place without opposition. The torpedo-boat had a difficult task to make the land, and it was only through the clever way in which she was handled by Lieutenant Stuart that she was able to do so. The Captain Superintendent, who was accompanied by Mr. E. R. Hallifax, Sergeants Sullivan and Sim, and two Chinese detective sergeants, interviewed the rival parties separately. He also went inland and saw the elders of the district, obtaining from them full particulars of the dispute. On Saturday the Captain Superintendent again went to Sha U Chung, timing his arrival by that of the other launches. The rough weather again prevented the monopolist launch from going forward, but the other launch completed the trip, and the passengers were disembarked all right. Some rowdy looking men were gathered on the beach, and had it not been for the presence of the police another disturbance would in all probability have taken place. The Captain Superintendent again went inland, and on this occasion he got both parties together and endeavoured to get them to come to an agreement, but he again failed. He, however, succeeded in making them realise that any further uproar would get them into serious trouble, seeing that the British Government had control of the waters. On Sunday the Captain Superintendent again went over to the mainland and saw the Chinese officials with a view to getting them to co-operate with him in preventing any disturbances in the future. And so the matter rests for the time being.

LOSS OF THE "WHITE CLOUD."

ALL HANDS SAVED.

Last week we announced that Mr. C. Robinson, of Manila, had purchased from the Hongkong, Canton, and Macao Steamboat Company the wooden paddle steamer *White Cloud*, which it had been decided to replace on the Canton run by a more modern vessel. The *White Cloud*, left Hongkong for Manila at about half-past three on Friday afternoon, 8th Sept., having on board four Europeans and 21 Chinese, the Europeans being Captain Raymond, First Mate Gopell, Chief Engineer Adamson, and Second Engineer McCulloch. She also carried 500 tons of coal, 1,000 head of poultry, and about 1,000 baskets of potatoes. When she had been going about 11 hours Captain Raymond turned her round to get to the sea, and then his troubles began, as the ship, which was some 24 years old, commenced to roll heavily and to strain.

Many of those who had heard that the *White Cloud* was going to Manila shook their heads and said she would never be able to stand the trip. At any rate, early on Saturday morning, when about 88 miles away from Hongkong, S. E. by S., half south, a couple of planks gave way. The water rushing in put the fires out and the engines stopped. The pumps were got to work without loss of time and buckets were requisitioned to bail the water out, the boat's head in the meantime being turned towards Hongkong. Other planks giving way, Captain Raymond ordered the four boats to be lowered. One boat was smashed up in the operation and a couple of Chinamen were plunged into the water. Life buoys were thrown to them and they were picked up. Chief Engineer Adamson and ten Chinese got in one boat. First Mate Gopell and five Chinese in another, and the Captain and Second Engineer McCulloch and five Chinese in the third. As soon as the Chief Engineer, and his men got into their boat they sighted a junk, and without stopping for provisions they made for it, and arrived in Hongkong on Saturday. The Captain and Second Engineer McCulloch did not leave the ship until about half-past ten in the morning, when they pushed off and with the First Mate's boat waited to see the last of the *White Cloud*, which went down bow first about 20 minutes after she had been left. The boats

then headed for Hongkong. The Captain made a sail with an oar and a piece of tarpaulin, and took the Mate's boat in tow. The Captain's boat leaked so badly that a couple of men had to be kept constantly at work bailing. At about three o'clock in the afternoon they fell in with a fishing junk, and the Captain and those in the same boat reached Hongkong at about four o'clock on Sunday afternoon. The mate's boat seems to have got adrift somehow, but she was in sight at dark on Saturday night, and as she was making for a junk close by it is believed that no lives have been lost.

ARRIVAL OF THE "THIRD BOAT."

First-mate Gopell, of the *White Cloud*, and the rest of the crew arrived in the harbour all safe on Tuesday morning, the junk on which they had taken refuge having been becalmed.

KANG YI AT WORK A CANTON.

It is reported in native circles that Kang Yi the Empress's "extortioner" is already in a fair way to adding handsomely to the coffers of his Imperial mistress by heavy contributions from the rich Southern capital. One sum alone offered him for the monopoly of fantan gambling-houses and the lottery styled the Pak-kup-pin is said to amount to close on \$2,000,000, and this is likely to be swelled by large offers for other monopolies and squeezes. The tenderer of the large sum mentioned for the gambling monopoly is the son of a high official now dead whose rank was equal to that of Viceroy, his position being that of Director of the Yellow River.

MURDER ON LANTAO ISLAND.

Another armed robbery in the New Territory has been reported to the police. It appears that at about half-past nine on Friday night, 18th Sept., six men, one of whom carried a revolver, broke into a house at Supo village, near Tung Chung, Lantau Island, and were proceeding to ransack the premises when the man who with his wife occupied the house interfered, and he was at once shot dead. The ruffians then proceeded with their search of the house, and subsequently carried away articles and clothing of the value of \$15.

ATTACKED BY PIRATES OFF PINGHOI.

SIX MEN WOUNDED.

Another case of piracy has been reported to the police. On Sunday afternoon a junk laden with passengers left Shaui Mi for Hongkong, and when off Pinghoi a boat bore down upon her. When close to the junk those on board the latter saw that the men in the boat were armed with fire-arms and swords. They then fired on the junk and threw stink-pots among the passengers. The latter, however, managed to beat off their assailants, who ultimately cleared away. Six of the passengers were more or less seriously injured, and are now in the Government Civil Hospital.

PIRACY IN HEUNGSHAN DISTRICT.

The lawlessness prevailing all over the Kwangtung province is now making itself severely felt in the Heungshan district. A correspondent informs us that at Pakafao and other places in the district there are great numbers of robbers who have formed themselves into sixteen gangs or companies, the names of the principal divisions being Lam Sow Tong, Son Wo Tong, Kit Go Tong, and Kwong Lo Tong. These gangs have a regularly concerted system of extorting money from rich people and shops in the markets and levying blackmail on passage boats, and the people are so terrified that they submit to their exactions quietly. Last month three silk boats were pirated, and the property stolen amounted in value to several thousands of dollars. Every fishing boat also has to pay blackmail under the penalty of having its fish thrown into the river.

At Macao the inclusion of the Heungshan district in Portuguese territory has for some time past been discussed. If the state of affairs above described is allowed to continue, the advocates of the Portuguese Colony's extension will have a strong argument in support of their case.

THE PIRATES OF THE LOWER WEST RIVER.

HOW TO DEAL WITH THEM.

[CONTINUED.]

It is already well known in Hongkong that brigandage is so rife in Kwangtung and especially on the West River that the Chinese traders throughout the country have had to, by degrees, give up their business and hoard their capital. Even hoarded wealth is not now safe, for it is fairly well known who are the men of means and they are marked down by the pirate leaders, and as opportunity offers, seized and held for ransom, or, where bodies of capitalists have to be dealt with, they are called upon to pay heavy blackmail to secure exemption from attack, as has been the case with the silk-dealers.

The district of Saichin is the one in which the robber bands have waxed boldest and where they openly defy the authorities; though the adjoining district, Namhoi, is almost equally overrun by them, for they seem to meet with little opposition when they issue forth in gangs to raid the rich villages and towns which lie in that portion of the delta between Saichin and Canton, which constitutes the Namhoi district. Nor do their raids cease there, for the whole country, and especially the rich delta towns and river craft, receive more or less of their attention, the launches and boats which they seize—and abandon when they land and disperse—giving them ample facility of movement from place to place.

One would think that the provincial authorities would make some attempt to restrain and suppress them, but although there is a pretence made to do so the fact that in the Saichin district, the brigands' chief stronghold, the troops sent to quell a fight and then to attack the robber bands basing themselves with the slaughter of some thousands of harmless villagers, including large numbers of women and children, and have so far made no attempt to put down the brigandage, leads one to infer that the Chinese authorities either cannot or will not attempt to restore order where they are likely to meet serious resistance. Their action, too, in promoting the disturbances in the New Territory while pretending to attempt to check it points to the suicidal policy they are following.

The consideration of the above facts emphasizes the necessity for the British authorities to take action themselves in the matter, as they speak to and faith in a real attempt of the Chinese Government to restore order in the South are likely to tend to increase the trouble rather than diminish it.

Granted the correctness of these premises, some knowledge of where to look for the brigands, who to mark down as the leaders and how to deal with them, may not, at present, be possible.

Three most notorious of the brigand leaders, each of whom controls his own following, are Ngan Kang-chew, Fu Chan-hoi, and Ngan San. If the gangs which these three redoubtable leaders direct are destroyed the smaller fry will quickly disappear.

Saichin, the headquarters of these men, is that district which lies along the course of the West River between Saiching and Samshui but on the opposite shore to those two places, i.e., on the south shore, and extending some distance down the river below Samshui. This district has natural advantages for the making of it the rallying point of such piratical people. It is mountainous and is backed by other mountainous districts to the south, west, and north across the river, the mountains of Saichin, Hokshan to the south and west, and the district direct to the west Saichin (I do not know the name and have no one with the necessary knowledge at hand as I write) are well wooded, in large areas densely wooded, thus affording many places of safe retreat if attacked. The country is productive and contains a number of rich valleys, which supply ample food. Rice and other food-stuff can, however, be easily obtained by seizing loaded boats passing up or down the river. Finally, the rich level delta lands lie open to them and there are no troops to resist their attacks. It is questionable if disbanded soldiers do not form a large portion of these pirate gangs, and whether their confederates amongst the few

troops which exist do not give them timely warning of any movement to be made against them; also, whether the smaller mandarins do not partake of their spoil. The position of Saichin, commanding as it does the whole of the rich river trade passing up and down the North and West Rivers—i.e., the whole of the foreign trade with the regions beyond the confluence of these two rivers and the native trade between the rich delta lands and the whole of Southern China lying to the west, north, and south, with the exception of the valleys of the West Coast, and even they can by distant raids be made to pay toll—further marks it down as an ideal piratical base of operations. This position gives the key, likewise, as to the proper mode of dealing with the evil, which is to keep a man-of-war, well supplied with boats and launches, stationed in the river, near the south bank, at the confluence of the North and West Rivers. This is the first and most important step to be taken, as it will restrict the movements of the robber gangs from and to their stronghold. It may not stop them altogether, but it will hamper their operations materially. The man-of-war will of course have a staff of reliable interpreters attached to it to go out with launch and boat parties. A small vessel will be required at Saiching and another at Kumchuk (this place commands all the creeks in the lower delta as Samshui, at the junction of the North and West Rivers, commands the creeks in the upper delta); the smaller vessels, likewise to have a good supply of boats and a steam-launch attached to them. Another small vessel, similarly supplied with boats, stationed near Kongmoon would complete the river guard necessary for the checking and eventual suppression of the piracy so rampant. The officers detailed for the duty should be judiciously selected and then given large discretionary powers in dealing with the pirates in their section or villages harbouring them.

The Chinese Government will, of course, be called upon to pay the bill and the revenues of the south could be impounded for that purpose, all native Customs stations on the rivers and creeks being abolished and foreign Customs established in their place where advisable; the policing of the river being a first charge on revenue raised.

Considerable numbers of brigands have of late made Hokshan district their headquarters and the scene of their operations.

DARING ESCAPE OF A PRISONER.

RIGHT FROM UNDER HIS WORSHIP'S NOSE.

Among the prisoners who were placed in the dock at the Magistracy on Tuesday was a Chinaman who was charged with stealing articles to the value of \$67. When his case was called there was no response, and on an examination being made it was found that two or three of the spikes at the bottom of the dock where he had been sitting had been removed, thus enabling the prisoner to creep out. Of course he could hardly do this without being noticed by some of the spectators in Court, but they all held their peace, and the man made good his escape right from under His Worship's nose.

THE SAD ACCIDENT TO A MIDSHIPMAN.

THE ADJOURNED ENQUIRY.

The adjourned enquiry into the circumstances attending the death of Evelyn Govett, a midshipman on board *M.S. Orlando*, who was killed by accidentally shooting himself with a revolver when on a shooting expedition at Castle Peak on Sunday week, was held at the Magistracy on Tuesday afternoon.

Arthur Hudson Silverthorne, an assistant in the office of Messrs. Holliday, Wise and Co., said they were all sitting down on the roadside at the time of the accident. The witness was sitting 4 or 6 ft. from the deceased and on the opposite side of the road and could see all the others. The deceased had the pistol in his hand while he was sitting down in a bent position a few minutes before the accident. The deceased was not firing at anything. The party heard a revolver shot, and on the witness noticing that the deceased had fallen over he exclaimed, "My God, he has shot himself." He went up to the body, and noticed the

pistol lying on the ground. No one lifted the body up for two or three minutes. The deceased was breathing freely when the witness went up to him. He could not say who picked up the pistol. After the accident it was clear of the body. Mr. Lloyd was sitting next to the deceased. Mr. Lloyd was not at present in the colony. He was Chief Officer of the *Arcton*. *Apcor*.

The inquest was further adjourned so that Mr. Lloyd can be called when he comes into port.

THE ACTING CHIEF JUSTICE ROBBED.

KEEP YOUR WINDOWS SHUT.

The gang of thieves which there is reason to believe exist in Hongkong are no respecters of persons, for on Monday afternoon they paid a visit to Belvedere, the Peak, the residence of the Acting Chief Justice (the Hon. W. Meigh Goodman), which one would have thought they would have given a wide berth. His Lordship was in his chambers at the Supreme Court in the afternoon, and Mrs. Goodman had gone out to make a few calls, but the servants were on the premises. Before leaving Mrs. Goodman left a silver card case on a blackwood table in the dining-room and there were also four small silver flower vases on the dining-room table. At about half-past three someone rang the bell, and on going into the dining-room shortly afterwards the boy noticed that three of the silver vases and the card case were missing. He asked the nurse if she knew anything about them, and on her saying no he returned to the dining-room and looked round. He then found that a couple of other articles were gone, and continuing his search came across the glasses from the vases—still containing the flowers—hidden in the earth in a plant pot which was on the verandah. It was evident that access had been obtained by means of a window which had been left open. The window, however, is some distance from the ground, and the thief or thieves must have had some difficulty in reaching it. The ringing of the bell evidently disturbed them and prevented them from taking more than they did. As it was they went away with silver articles amounting in value to about \$70. The police were informed of the occurrence, and after examining the premises came to the conclusion that a gentleman had been gained through the open window. We understand that two or three other residents in the same locality have lost articles lately.

UNFORTUNATE ACCIDENT TO MR. T. F. HUGH.

Among the passengers, who arrived by the *Empress of Japan* on Tuesday was Mr. T. F. Hough (of the firm of Messrs. Hughes and Hough, auctioneers and brokers), who was returning home after a few weeks' holiday. Mr. Hough was, however, unable to leave the ship on account of a lamentable accident which befell him early in the morning as the vessel was nearing Hongkong. He was opening a bottle of tansan when the bottle burst and cut him very severely about the thigh, causing him to lose a great quantity of blood. The main artery only just escaped. Dr. Lowson attended to him during the day, and we are pleased to say that Mr. Hough is as well as could be expected.

AFFAIRS IN THE PHILIPPINES.

[FROM OUR CORRESPONDENT.]

Manila, 5th September.

LABOUR DAY IN MANILA.

Manila's deserted streets with their closed and barred windows led many a resident to enquire yesterday the reason of so unusual a scene. Since the American occupation the old fiestas, recreation days, and public celebrations that help to make life in Spanish countries so gay, have been done away with and almost forgotten in the continual grind and rush of energetic money hunters, who are rapidly stripping the old town, and so unusual a thing as the suspension of business naturally created comment.

Yesterday was Labour Day and a legal holiday. In America there are usually some formal exercises and parades by the trade unions, but in Manila this class of organisation is not in evidence as yet. It is a day set apart presumably for the meeting and recreation of the

employees and employers, and all classes of labour are pictured by the romantically inclined as meeting on common ground, but this is rather more picturesque than real. Besides the suspension of a few daily papers and the fairly general closing of stores and shops the day passed as all others. Over in the Walled City the City Hall was as bustling and busy as it is on Sundays and nearly every other day in the year.

CEBUS' GOLD FIELDS.

Two days ago a trio of adventurous prospectors returned to Manila after having spent several weeks in turning over rock on the island of Cebu. They report the location of several rich claims and their stories are backed up by some excellent specimens. The metal is comparatively free and is not difficult to work, and as soon as the country is somewhat pacified the lucky discoverers intend to develop their find. They say that the natives were not hostile to them and that there was no fighting in the vicinity, but the country is very unsafe.

NEW CARGO BOATS FROM HONGKONG.

The first of the twelve cargo junks recently purchased in Hongkong has arrived in Manila in good shape. It came over in tow of the *Tailee*, and though the trip was not very calm, no very serious inconvenience was suffered. When all twelve of these big cargo carriers are here the present congested state of the freight work will be greatly relieved. The Government has rented and seized or captured so many cascos (as the Manila junks are called) that the present supply is very inadequate, and the constantly increasing shipping suffers no end of trouble and loss of time.

OBSERVATORY TIME CHANGED.

The Manila Observatory, which has for so many years set the time of the islands, marking noon as the sun passed the meridian, is to alter and change all its clocks. The time ball will not drop when the sun stands at exact Philippine noon, but at noon of the standard time. This makes a difference of nearly four minutes. For some times the Government has been discussing the change and finally orders have reached Colonel Thompson, the chief signal officer, who will announce the noon hour to-day.

TRANSPORT "OHIO" TO RELIEVE THE WRECKED "MORGAN CITY."

This afternoon the *Ohio* will depart for the Inland Sea to take off the troops arrived by the wrecked U.S. transport *Morgan City*. When the news of the disaster first reached Manila it created the greatest anxiety, but later advices show that there were no casualties. The *Morgan City* is on the rocks and at the present writing the extent of the damage has not been definitely determined.

The carrying capacity of the transport is about one thousand men and the vessel has been in the Philippine service since the early part of the Spanish War.

THE MISSING "SANITARY ORDINANCE."

TO OUR VERY OWN ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

I.
Gentle Pollock, kind and true,
I would have a word with you.
Do you know by any chance,
Where's the "Missing Ordinance?"
Dealing with our crowded city?
To delay it is a pity.
Hence I write this simple ditty.

II.
Can this rumour be denied,
That with red tape fastly tied,
Docketed on the outside,
In your despatch box 'tis lying,
While poor Chinese folk are dying
Of the plague? 'T is useless sighing,
What we need is work and trying.

III.
Hasten please, its folds untying,
Fleet unto Sir Henry flying,
Force him to take action fleetly,
Explain to him each clause completely,
Dutifully do the work and neatly.

IV.
Then the Council summon round him,
Let not landlord's power confound him,
Pass the law with brief bold clauses,
Brush away obstructing causes.

IV.
So shall we with joy remember
That Pollock in the hot September
Passed the law which made men healthy,
Killed the sickness dark and stealthy.
Please, good Pollock, cease delaying
Listen to this prayer we're praying.
One prayer is ours, nor light, nor vague,
Your Ordinance must stop the plague.
1899 I.V.R.C.

THE TRANSPORT OF U.S. SOLDIERS BY SEA.

ARRIVAL OF A U.S. TRANSPORT.

(Contributed.)

Considerable excitement was caused in Hongkong on the 6th inst. by the arrival of the U.S. transport *Sardine Box* with troops from Manila for San Francisco.

The war-worn veterans who have undergone much exposure on field service in the Philippines seem to have been returned to America in almost princely fashion, judging by their accommodation on board the transport *Sardine Box*. When the vessel was signalled at the Peak the message ran "U.S. ship densely packed with human beings in sight. Fear that a shipwreck of a transport has occurred and the troops from two separate ships have taken refuge on the single vessel." Such a message caused much interest and on every point of vantage crowds of people assembled to see the transport vessel come into the harbour. Gradually she steamed through the Lyemooon Pass and entered the anchorage.

Nothing could exceed the extraordinary sight which presented itself to the on-lookers. The transport ship, which is of moderate size, seemed to be one living seething mass of human beings. It resembled the branch of a tree on which a swarm of bees have settled, and the human crowd seemed as if it formed one great living agglomeration of flesh crushed and cramped and crowded together. A dozen men at least found refuge on the bowsprit, and on every yard and gaff swarms of men appeared to be living, and it seemed impossible that they could descend to the densely packed mass of their comrades on the deck below. Out of each large ventilator peered at least four faces. In each of the eight boats there was a crowd of men who seemed to have made the place their only home, and on every roof of the companions, on the capstan, and on the wheel-house, the same densely packed mass of human life existed. Three men struggled for a place on each of the many ports and through each port hole were thrust the heads of swarms of men who seemed gasping for air from the nauseous 'tween decks. Even each of the cabin scuttles, which formed but very small standing room, was occupied by a soldier, who seemed to rejoice in finding even this small place to rest on and an escape from the deadly packing within the ship. Judging by the appearance of the ship all the on-lookers felt that a collision or shipwreck must have occurred between two troopships and that the vessel which escaped had taken on board the double allowance of men. When, therefore, the early visitors came alongside and endeavoured to enter the crowded vessel and enquire into the occurrence that had caused the overcrowding they were extremely surprised to find that nothing out of the common had occurred, but that the apparently frightful overcrowding was simply the normal condition of a United States war transport carrying troops in the burning tropical sea that extends between the shores of Luzon, Honolulu, and San Francisco.

When the visitors managed by main force to wedge themselves between the densely packed masses on the ship and interviewed the officers they found that this terrible overcrowding, this sickening slave-ship packing of republican human souls, was quite the rule, and quite in accordance with American customs during this Pacific Ocean war. As the decks were packed night and day with men it was evidently impossible to thoroughly clean or police the decks and the appearance of the whole place was to say the least unsatisfactory.

The splendidly tall young men who formed the passengers seemed thin and spare, and bore on their worn and often anxious faces visible evidence that they had undergone in the swampy Philippine interior exposure to malaria and all

that it means. A finer body of youths—far in the main they were but youths of five and twenty—one could not find in any army, but the burning sun of a tropical island, want of shelter against rain and storm, the defective and hurried feeding of war time, and the wear and tear and anxiety which every campaign entails on those who go through it had not spared these gallant men.

To think that such men as these and such soldiers should be so brutally overcrowded, so packed together as to render daily life perfect misery is lamentable. For human beings to be flung into the crowded 'tween decks with such indiscriminate packing is most painful. It is a sin not only against America, but also against our common humanity. It reflects no credit on the much quoted Anglo-Saxon brotherhood. It is a disgrace to the wealthy American nation to allow such a condition of affairs to occur, and the responsible military officials at Manila who permitted this ship to leave that port on her voyage should be called to account in the most serious manner for their unpardonable neglect. We all here greatly resent the occurrence.

We have heard much of the horrors of the middle passage of the slave ships of the beginning of this century. The emigrant ships which in past days left Europe with emigrants for America were, it is true, not palaces in luxury or space; but for downright overcrowding, dense and destructive packing of human souls in a moisture laden tropical sea, the "first prize" for overcrowding must be allotted to the U.S. transport *Sardine Box* and "honourable mention" only to the slave ship and the emigrant packet.

We hear much of the expansion of the republic, but expansion is needed more than in any other in the war transports the republic employs to transport her interesting army across the Pacific. *E pluribus unum* is not to translate as "many packed in the space for one," and if in the next few weeks we hear that plague or smallpox or typhus or other of the diseases which like Nemesis follow on overcrowding has broken out in the U.S. transport *Sardine Box* we shall receive the intelligence with regret but absolutely without surprise. And this is the Great Republic, and this is the *fin de siècle*!

That men in perfect physical health can stand overcrowding for a time may be perfectly true, but what of the many, the very many, ailing men for whom so little comfort exists? The hospital brimming over with sick, the pale and languid men that lay about the uncleanest decks? What of these? No Chinese coolies travelling to Borneo or Singapore dare be packed in such a manner as this, and where this crowded *Sardine Box* calls in at any Chinese or Japanese port, as she must do on her voyage toward America, she will lower by her overcrowding the prestige of the Western races and drag down into the veriest mud all that pre-eminence, all that struggle for better conditions, that the Western nations in their settlements along the Asiatic Pacific shore have for fifty years endeavoured to build up.

Gallant soldiers returning from your hard experiences in that picturesque but most exhausting tropical island to your own well loved shores, your pale worn faces have affected us all. The thoughtfulness of your many faces is noted by all who meet you. America, your well loved mother, could never have meant that you should suffer like this, but I am certain that one and all who know the facts of your terrible overcrowding feel that out of your great sufferings will come sure redress, if not for you personally, then certainly for those your comrades who come after you into these tropical seas. It is to attract attention to your unwarlike sufferings we as members of your brotherhood of Anglo-Saxons write to-day.

Messrs. McAlister & Co., of Singapore, have received a telegram stating that the steamer *Darius* passed Galle on 5th August having broken down. Later information was to the effect that the vessel had been towed into Colombo with her hull plating gone. She had many valuable race horses on board, some of them destined for the Viceroy's Cup. Telegraphs Vigorously Billow. Fair Handle being among the number. All the valuable horses are safe, but the loss of the hull plating is a serious matter. The vessel is now being towed to the shipyard for repairs.

THE OVERCROWDING OF THE TARTAR.

HOW IT CAME ABOUT.

12th September.
With respect to the overcrowding of the *Tartar*, which arrived on the 6th September from Manila with troops for San Francisco, and which is expected to resume her homeward voyage to-day, arrangements have been made whereby the troops will be more comfortable than hitherto, in addition to which the number on board has been reduced somewhat by some of the time-expired regulars leaving by the *City of Peking* the other day and others taking berths in the *Gaelic*. As soon as he heard of the overcrowding, Consul-General Wildman went on board the *Tartar* with the Consular Surgeon, Dr. Perry, and met the Chief Surgeon of the ship, the result of the visit being, as we have before stated, the making of arrangements calculated to add to the men's comfort.

It seems that in the first instance, it was only intended to take home the Kansas Volunteers in the *Tartar*; but some 400 time-expired regulars induced the authorities at Manila to give them tickets, with the result that all the arrangements were upset. When told that they would have to wait until there was another transport at liberty the regulars one and all replied that they would rather go home on a plank than stay a day longer in Manila, and in this way persuaded the authorities to pack them off at once. At the same time we understand that every man was provided with a proper sleeping place, and certain little conveniences which the men complained were missing were, through the energy of Consul-General Wildman, unearthed, they having been stowed away on board ship all the time the men were bemoaning their absence.

THE HARBOUR DEPARTMENT DECLINE TO CLEAR.

13th September.
The transport *Tartar* with the American troops on board should have resumed her homeward voyage yesterday, but her departure has been delayed by the Harbour Department notifying Consul-General Wildman that they decline to clear her on account of overcrowding. The Consul-General protested and submitted the matter to His Excellency the Governor, who is considering it. The point is whether the *Tartar* comes under the Merchant Shipping Ordinance or whether she is to be regarded as a troopship. If it is decided that she is to be ruled by the Ordinance she cannot leave with more than 750 passengers, in which case some 450 soldiers will be left in Hongkong. If she is recognised as a troopship she can carry some 1,300 souls.

HIS EXCELLENCY DECLINES TO INTERFERE.

14th September.
His Excellency the Governor declines to interfere with the action of the Harbour Master in refusing to clear the *Tartar* except for the number of passengers on the passenger certificate, and has informed the Commander of the *Tartar* that if he leaves with any in excess of this number he will be liable to a heavy penalty per head. Under these circumstances there is no saying how long the *Tartar* will have to remain here. The four or five hundred men in excess could hardly be accommodated here, so she will in all probability not resume her homeward voyage until a vessel to carry the excess is secured.

THE DIFFICULTY ADJUSTED.

16th September.
The *Tartar* left for home yesterday, the matter having been amicably settled. We are informed that the whole difficulty arose from a misunderstanding. The Harbour Office declined to clear because the old license of the *Tartar* made out in Hongkong stated that she only carried life-saving appliances for 741 persons. Since she has been overhauled by the American Government she carries life-saving appliances for 1,300 persons, and the officials having satisfied themselves of this by a survey the vessel was cleared. About 20 soldiers who were ashore were left behind.

SERIOUS ASSAULT ON MR. J. J. SPOONER.

A SODA WATER BOTTLE THROWN AT HIS HEAD.

At the Magistracy on Thursday, before Mr. Gompertz, George Williams, aged 38, of Wyndham Street, was charged with unlawfully and maliciously assaulting Joseph John Spooner, chief excise officer.

Complainant, who appeared with his head bandaged, said—About 1.30 p.m. on the 13th inst. I was sitting at a table in the Hongkong Hotel with Captain Sherman, a friend of mine. I felt someone from behind rubbing the top of my head very hard with his hand. I looked up and saw defendant. I told him not to do it again. He rubbed my head again and I again said "Stop that." He began rubbing a third time and I jumped up and he made a blow at me which missed. I caught hold of him by the shoulder and he caught hold of me by the jacket and shirt. An American soldier came up and told defendant to let me go and he did so. I then sat down and said to the soldier, "Don't strike that man; I know him." The soldier went away. Defendant then began calling me a fraud and a beast and various other insulting names. I said, "For goodness sake, shut up." I turned to speak to my friend, when I received a tremendous blow on the head from one side. I could not see who struck it. I was stunned for a little and when I came to I saw defendant on the floor and some American soldiers kicking him, whilst others said, "Don't touch him, get a policeman." I went into the lavatory and got my head washed. When I came out I saw a number of people and an Indian sergeant of police outside Mr. Lang's shop. I said I wanted defendant arrested.

On being cross-examined complainant said—The first time defendant rubbed my hair I told him not to do it again. I think he was under the influence of drink. The second time defendant touched me I said "I'll smooth it down for you." I did not call defendant a fraud. He called me a fraud and a beast. I do not understand yet why I was struck.

H. C. Sherman, master mariner, said—I was sitting in company with Mr. Spooner and another gentleman at about 1.30 p.m. yesterday in the Hongkong Hotel. Defendant came in and ruffled Mr. Spooner's hair. Mr. Spooner told him to desist. He got arguing and they started wrangling. Mr. Spooner then sat down and defendant sat at the same table for a little while and some more words passed. I did not listen to what they said. I then saw defendant jump up and raise his hand with a soda-water bottle in it. I jumped up and tried to ward off the blow with my right arm. The blow struck Mr. Spooner at the top of the head and cut it open. Some American soldiers in the first instance interfered and told defendant not to fight with an old man and that they would fight with defendant, but Mr. Spooner told them to let him be.

George Hoff said—I am a commission agent living at Breezy Point, Hongkong. Yesterday forenoon I was sitting at another table opposite Mr. Spooner in the Hongkong Hotel. I saw defendant and prosecutor, who seemed to be arguing together. They then had a slight struggle. I did not see Mr. Spooner strike defendant. Defendant seemed to try and strike Mr. Spooner. Shortly afterwards I saw Mr. Spooner sit down. Defendant sat at the same table. Defendant then rose slightly and threw a soda-water bottle which struck Mr. Spooner on the head. The bottle broke. Some Americans then came in and turned defendant out. I do not know if prosecutor was speaking to defendant at the time he was struck. Prosecutor after being struck bent his head, which was cut and bleeding.

P. S. 624 said—Yesterday at 1.30 p.m. I was near to the Hongkong Hotel. Prosecutor charged defendant and told me to take him to the Police Station. I arrested defendant. I saw prosecutor's head bleeding. I did not examine the wound.

Defendant said—When I played with Mr. Spooner's hair I did so as a joke, in play. He seemed to get annoyed, and that began the trouble. I sat down at his table and we had some words together. He remarked that I was

a fraud. Two soldiers were there and they came to the station with me yesterday. They are not here now. I lost my temper and struck prosecutor with a bottle. I had no malice, and did not mean to do any bodily harm. I do not know why I did it.

A fine of \$50, or two months' hard labour, was imposed.

HONGKONG COTTON SPINNING, WEAVING AND DYEING CO., LTD.

The second ordinary meeting of the Hongkong Cotton Spinning, Weaving and Dyeing Co., Ltd., was held on Saturday at noon at the offices of the General Managers, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson and Co. Hon. J. J. Keawick presided. The other gentlemen present were:—Hon. C. P. Chater, Messrs. R. M. Gray and A. Haupt (directors), G. Murray, Bain, J. Orange, A. Shaw (manager) J. C. Peter, J. Y. V. Vernon, J. R. Michael, B. Byramjee, J. McKie, Brooke-Smith, Ho Tung, Wong Wing, Tong, Ng Yat Heung, Lo Sai Ki, Chan Ku, Leung Tit Shan, Ho U Shang, Hon Kwan Hin and Chan Chan Nam.

The CHAIRMAN—Gentlemen, with your consent we will follow the custom which prevails at meetings of public companies in this colony and not trespass on your time by reading the printed report which was forwarded to every shareholder some ten days ago. There is very little to be added to what is mentioned in the report in your hands, because, of an enterprise of this nature while at its initiatory stages it is impossible to speak of the result of its working with any degree of certainty, and it would be very imprudent to venture on any forecast. At the same time I may remark that we are supplied with cheaply-bought cotton sufficient to keep the mill running up to the end of this year, so that we can afford to look on and watch whether events will justify the very substantial advance that has taken place during the last few weeks in the price of Indian cotton being maintained. It affords as pleasure in taking this opportunity of testifying to the energetic services rendered by Mr. Shaw, the mill manager, in supervising the installation of the mill machinery, also of its working during the primary stages, and we have every confidence in his tact and management (applause). The balance sheet, as submitted, is merely an abstract statement of the company's financial position as on 31st July, and the only item in it to which I desire to make reference is accounts payable, which includes \$5,592—representing the charges for office expenses and commission as provided for under Articles of Association, due to Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co., which we have decided to write back and place to the credit of next year's account. There is nothing else of interest that occurs to me to refer to, but before proposing the adoption and passing the report and accounts, as now submitted, I shall be glad to answer any questions that shareholders may submit.

No questions being asked, the CHAIRMAN proposed the adoption and passing of the statement of report and accounts as submitted.

Mr. MURRAY BAIN seconded, and the motion was carried.

On the motion of Mr. ORANGE seconded by Mr. BYRAMJEE the consulting committee were re-appointed.

On the motion of Mr. PETER, seconded by Mr. BROOKE-SMITH Mr. W. Hutton Potts was re-elected auditor.

The Chairman—I have now to propose the special resolution, of which due notice has been given, and which reads as follows:—That in paragraph 2 Clause XVI. in Articles of Association, the figures \$1,00,000 be substituted for \$500,000. This resolution gentlemen, will at once suggest to your minds two queries, viz., 1. Why was the Capital of the company not fully allotted? and 2. Why was the company originally floated with a capital so much under its known requirements? Before replying to this situation, as now submitted, I should mention that at the time the company was started the mills in Shanghai were all working on an assumed dividend-paying basis and the shares of all the companies in the north were quoted at a substantial premium, and under these circumstances it was anticipated

ed that the unallotted shares could be sold at a premium after the flotation of the company; also that the further capital required could be raised by debentures at a much lower rate of interest than the contemplated percentage of dividend. These hopeful forecasts have, unfortunately, not been realized, and we have therefore to come before you to-day with this special resolution, which practically enables the general managers to increase their borrowing powers from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000. Up to the present time, Messrs. Jardine, Matheson & Co. have met the financial wants of the company, but this was a purely temporary arrangement, and later on some more permanent system of finance will have to be introduced. With this explanation, I beg to propose that, "In paragraph 2, clause XVI in articles of association, the figures \$1,000,000 be substituted for \$500,000."

Mr. VERNON seconded, and the motion was carried.

The CHAIRMAN—That concludes the business of the meeting. I am very much obliged to you for the trouble you have taken in coming round to the meeting.

THE SHANGHAI ENGINEERING, SHIPBUILDING, AND DOCK CO., LIMITED.

The fourth ordinary general meeting of the shareholders in this company was held in the Board Room of the Imperial Bank of China at Shanghai on the 30th August. Count Butler (Chairman) presided, and there were present Messrs. Chun Fai-ting, O. Meuser, and O. Middleton (Directors), J. Blechynden (Manager), A. F. Maertens, R. A. Ord, E. U. Smith, T. Weir, J. M. Young, J. Ambrose, A. P. White-Cooper, F. J. Mayers, J. S. Remusat, and J. S. Nazer (Secretary), representing in all 2,310 shares.

The notice convening the meeting having been ready by the Secretary.

The Chairman, in moving the adoption of the report and accounts said—Gentlemen, I think it is not necessary to say anything about the report, which has been in your hands for some time, and I believe we can take it as read. With regard to the various items in the balance sheet, and taking the account of land, it will be seen that it is the same as last year, being, indeed, the original first cost. The building account is practically the same; there have been a few additions, but, on the other hand, we have had to write off a very considerable portion of the cost of the buildings in the Yangtsepoo Road, which, as you know, were taken over from the old Engineering Co. We have removed now everything to the new place, and as what is left is old material you cannot put it down at very much. The cost of the dock is, of course, very much in excess of what was originally proposed, but we have enlarged so much on the subject at former meetings that it is not necessary to say much on that score now. I think all those shareholders who have seen the dock will agree that from an engineering point of view it is a great success, what further success it will be of course the future will have to say, but certainly the directors are sure that the dock is of such stability that repairs, which in other docks have amounted to a considerable figure, will be next door to nil in our dock. I think the extra expenditure will be amply repaid in course of time. Its solidity has been proved, as you all know, by very big ships having been in there already; there is now one of the German steamers there carrying 2,000 tons of cargo in her hold. From the other side of the balance sheet you will gather that the whole of the authorised capital has been issued. When we were compelled to ask for more money the public had fresh in their minds that we had had several accidents, and in consequence, much money was required and the cost of the dock was to be higher than originally intended. As the share market was not such as to make your directors think the money would come forth very freely we had to make this second issue of shares. All of those shares have been placed, and the whole capital of the company is now issued. Out of the balance at the credit of profit and loss account we propose to pay a dividend at the rate of 7 per cent. on the second issue of shares—I will not call them preference shares

—and carry forward the balance to next year's account. The result appears to the Board as good as can be expected under the circumstances. Shareholders must remember that the dock was not completed until after these accounts were made up, and the results before you are no guide to the earning capabilities of the dock and works. These have to be shown in the future. Up till now it has been mostly constructive work, and it is only now we are beginning to come to the profitable part of the work. The Board is quite satisfied with the work we have on hand and the future prospects, and we feel sure that the shareholders will be satisfied with the results which we hope to put before them at the end of this year. I may here remark, also, that we have been largely engaged, as far as the remunerative part of the work goes, on work for ourselves. All the work on wharves, plant, etc., has been carefully expended and put down at actual cost price, no profit being put down on the work done for ourselves, so that the profit which we have shown to you is profit on actual work done. If shareholders like to go where they will see lots of machines that have been made by ourselves. Before I go any farther I should like to hear any remarks that any shareholders have to make.

Mr. A. S. P. White-Cooper took exception to the "E. & O. E." at the foot of the accounts. It might be natural to use such a proviso in a simple mercantile account, but he contended that it was not right for a balance sheet to be signed with such a reservation. Such words really rendered the accounts practically worthless, and from a legal point of view he ventured to submit that they should be taken out. As regarded the profit and loss account he thought the directors should have shown what it cost to earn the net profit of Tls. 31,000. As regarded the balance sheet he noticed there was no asset of cash at bank or cash in hand, although it might perhaps, be included in the amount in course of collection. Furthermore, no allowance seemed to have been made for bad or doubtful debts.

The Chairman in reply said he had never seen accounts without the "E. & O. E." although he did not think it meant anything at all.

Mr. Mayers said he had never seen accounts in Shanghai without the proviso.

Mr. Meuser—You cannot vouch for the absolute correctness of anything.

Mr. White-Cooper—It is all right on a merchant's account, but in a company of this kind it is not all right.

The Chairman said the books had been audited by gentleman who had been elected by the shareholders and he thought it was usual to employ the words. With regard to Mr. White-Cooper's remarks about the profit and loss account, it was necessary to remember that there was keen competition in Shanghai and if everything were published it would be for the benefit of the competitors. The accounts as published, he thought, were explicit enough, and any shareholder who desired further information could obtain the same privately at the office. At the meeting of other companies similar enquiries were made but more details were not given. As far as the valuation of property went he thought it would be quite useless to go to the expense of having a special valuation. It was put down at the actual cost, and from his own knowledge he could say that the land was worth considerably more than the sum at which it stood in the books. If there was any land in the neighbourhood with the same frontage and advantages, an immediate purchaser could be found. As to the question about the cash balance he could only say any cash they had was in the Hongkong and Shanghai Bank.

Mr. Ambrose said he thought it would be an unnecessary expense to have a valuation of the property every year. Anyone who had been in Shanghai for any length of time was perfectly satisfied that the property was worth what it was put down at, and a great deal more.

The Chairman then proposed the adoption of the report and accounts.

Mr. Chun Fai-ting, seconded, and the resolution was carried *nem. con.*

Proposed by Mr. O. Meuser, and seconded by Mr. Middleton, Count Butler was re-elected a director.

Upon the motion of Mr. J. M. Young, seconded by Mr. J. Ambrose, Mr. R. F. Black was re-elected as auditor; and proposed by Mr. J. Ambrose, and seconded by Mr. Rodewald, Mr. J. D. Thorburn was elected auditor, vice Mr. G. D. Scott, resigned.

The proceedings closed with a vote of thanks to the chair.

S. C. FARNHAM AND CO., LIMITED.

The following is the report of the Board of Directors for presentation at the seventh annual general meeting, to be held at the head office, 14, Broadway, Shanghai, on the 14th September.

To the Shareholders of S. C. Farnham & Co., Limited.

Gentlemen,—The directors have much pleasure in submitting to you their report with statement of accounts for the year ending 30th June last, which they trust will prove satisfactory to you.

The work at our new "Cosmopolitan Dock" is progressing favourably. The first vessel to enter the dock was the 4m. bark *Muskoka* in June last, and since that time other vessels of heavy tonnage have been docked.

Our new boiler shop at the "Cosmopolitan Dock" is nearly completed, the same is equipped with the most modern machinery, and when finished we expect will increase the earning power of the Company.

Mr. G. Galles went home on leave in March last.

The net profits, after paying all charges, amount to Tels. 217,300.14, including Tels. 19,464.50 carried forward from last year.

This amount the directors propose to appropriate as follows:—

A dividend of Tels. 15 per share	112,500.00
Amount to be placed to reserve fund	75,000.00
Amount to be transferred to depreciation and maintenance fund	10,000.00
Balance to be carried to new account	19,800.14
	Tels. 217,300.14

In accordance with the articles of Association, Mr. Geo. Peables retires, but being eligible offers himself for re-election.

Our auditor, Mr. Geo. Corner, died in November last, and the directors invited Mr. Geo. D. Scott to take his place.

The accounts have been audited by Messrs. W. H. Anderson and Geo. D. Scott, who offer themselves for election.

THE STRAITS INSURANCE CO. LIMITED.

We are informed by Mr. W. H. T. Davis, the local Manager of the Straits Insurance Co., Limited, that he has received advice by cable that at the extraordinary meeting of shareholders held at Singapore yesterday the following resolutions were passed:—

- 1—"That the Company be wound up voluntarily."
- 2—"That three liquidators be appointed for the purposes of winding up the Company voluntarily with power for one of them alone in the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Ireland and in Europe Canada or the United States of America to exercise all the powers of the liquidators with regard to reinsurances and adjusting and settling claims and paying and receiving claims against or by the Company including all claims for premium salvage and reinsurance and to institute and prosecute or defend in his name or in the name of the Company all actions or proceedings by or against the Company or the liquidator or liquidators in relation to or in respect of all or any of such matters as above mentioned and to settle and compromise such claims. And with power for such one of the liquidators to exercise in the said United Kingdom or in Europe Canada or the United States of America all powers which could be exercised in the said United Kingdom Europe Canada or United States of America by all the liquidators including in such powers the disposal of all property of the Company excepting the property of the Company in the Straits Settlements or at its Eastern Branches or agencies and the goodwill of the Company's Singapore and Eastern business or agencies excluding those of Bombay and Hongkong. And that the appointment

ment of the liquidator who is to exercise the said powers in the said United Kingdom be for such period as shall be named in the next following resolution. And with power and authority for any two of the liquidators to exercise out of the said United Kingdom, Europe, Canada and the said United States all the powers and authorities of liquidators of the Company in some manner as if such two liquidators were the only liquidators appointed by the Company.

3. That the period of the appointment of the liquidators to exercise alone in the said United Kingdom, Europe, Canada and the United States the powers and authorities of the liquidators shall be a period of five calendar months commencing on the date of the confirmatory resolution when this becomes a special resolution or such other period as by a resolution of the members of the Company in general meeting shall be hereafter decided.

4. That this Company approves of the Directors having agreed with the South British Fire and Marine Insurance Company of New Zealand for the sale to such Company by this Company of the land and buildings of this Company at No. 2 Finlayson Green Singapore and the goodwill of this Company's Singapore and Eastern business and that the liquidators of this Company be and are hereby directed to carry into effect and complete such agreement.

THE GYMKHANA.

The third Gymkhana of the season in connection with the Hongkong Jockey Club took place on the Race Course, Happy Valley, on Saturday afternoon in beautiful weather. His Excellency the Governor and H.E. Major-General Gascoigne were among those present.

The first event was a polo pony race. There were eight entries, and all ran. Wizard which was ridden by the owner (Mr. Johnson), won easily; the pony which secured second place (Alphabet) being also ridden by its owner (Mr. W. A. Cruickshank). In the three-quarter mile race Yellow Dwarf had a good lead when the Black Rock was reached. Glenroy then came up and looked dangerous, but Yellow Dwarf maintained the lead and won by a couple of lengths. In the steeplechase Mr. Walwyn had two horses running. Queensberry and Landknecht. Both kept well to the front for some time. Then Landknecht fell behind, but Queensberry was leading when the straight was entered, when Wizard shot ahead and came in first once more.

By the kind permission of Major Morris and the Officers of the Royal Welch Fusiliers the Band of the Regiment was in attendance and played a capital selection of music during the afternoon.

The following were the officers:—

Patrons.—H.E. Sir Henry Arthur Blake, G.C.M.G.; H.E. Major-General W. J. Gascoigne, C.M.G.; and Commodore F. Powell, C.B.

Committee.—Lieut.-Col. The O'Gorman, D.A.A.G., Capt. W. L. Warren, R.A., Capt. G. E. Rickman, R.W.F., Commander Plenderleath, R.N., the Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G., the Hon. J. J. Keswick, the Hon. F. H. May, C.M.G., the Hon. T. H. Whitehead, Messrs. J. S. Bruce, W. A. Cruickshank, R. M. Gray, V. A. Caesar Hawkins, T. F. Hough, J. McKie, G. C. Moxon, G. H. Potts, and C. F. Randall, R.E.

Judges.—The Hon. J. J. Keswick and Mr. V. A. Caesar Hawkins.

Handicappers.—The Hon. C. P. Chater, C.M.G., and Mr. J. McKie.

Starter.—Mr. T. F. Hough.

Time-keeper.—Mr. G. H. Potts.

Clerk of the Scales.—Mr. J. McKie.

Hon. Treasurer.—Mr. J. S. Bruce.

Hon. Secretary.—Mr. G. C. Moxon.

Polo Pony Race; for bona fide polo ponies; 1 mile; catch weights over 11 stone; first and second prizes from Gymkhana Fund.

Mr. H. B. Johnson's The Wizard	1
Mr. W. A. Cruickshank's Alphabet	2
Mr. F. J. Walwyn's Landskecht	3
Captain Warren's Snuffbox	0
Mr. G. C. Moxon's Unit	0
Mr. W. J. Gresson's Kildare	0
Captain Geoghegan's Sayan	0
Mr. H. B. Johnson's Wizard	0

4 MILE RACE; for all China ponies; weight for inches as per scale, with 5 lbs. added; winners at Hongkong races (including off day) or this season's gymkhanas to carry 7 lbs. extra for 1 win; 10 lbs. extra for 2 wins; 12 lbs. extra for 3 wins. Allowances; sub-griffins of this season and ponies that have never been raced, 4 lbs.; sub-griffins of this season that have not won a race, 8 lbs.; allowances not accumulative; first prize Cup, presented by Mr. R. M. Gray; second prize from Gymkhana Fund.

Captain Bancroft's Yellow Dwarf, 11st 7lb	(Mr. Johnson)	1
Mr. J. M. Forbes's Glenrow, 11st 3lb	(Mr. Gedge)	2
Mr. Walwyn's Queensberry, 11st 8lb	(Mr. Walwyn)	3
Mr. Kelly's Sirdar, 11st 9lb	(Mr. Cruickshank)	0
Mr. Alderton's Meteor Rose, 11st 4lb	(Mr. Alderton)	0
Capt. Geoghegan's Sayan, 10st 9lb	(Capt. Geoghegan)	0
Mr. Riddle's Pineapple, 11st 7lb	(Mr. Cox)	0
Hon. J. J. Keswick's Pilgrim, 10st 11lb	(Mr. Green)	0
Capt. Bancroft's Grasshopper, 10st 12lb	(Mr. Bancroft)	0

ALPHA AND OMEGA RACE; for China ponies; competitors to be drawn in pairs at starting post—all start together and ride to a given point where they will dismount and the two riders in each pair will change ponies with each other—all will then race for the winning post. Two prizes will be given—one for the first rider in, and the other to go to the owner of the pony last in; should the owner of the last pony and first rider in be identical he will be awarded one prize only (as first rider in); the other prize to go to owner of last pony but one; all ponies must, in the opinion of the judges, be ridden to best advantage, i.e., to come in first. Three minutes allowed for this race from fall of flag. Winners:—

Capt. Warren's Offside	(Mr. Moxon)	1
Mr. Gresson's Burnside	(Mr. Walwyn)	2

The following ponies were also entered though only four competed:—Mr. H. Hill's Reveller, Mr. F. J. Walwyn's The Bear, Captain Warren's Snuffbox, Captain Rickman's Braeknek, Captain Bancroft's Grasshopper and Earl Marshal, Mr. P. A. Cox's Pineapple, Mr. G. C. Moxon's Unit, Captain Geoghegan's Xerxes.

STEEPLECHASE; for all China ponies; over the usual course; catch weights over 11st. 5lbs.; previous winners of any hurdle race or steeplechase in Hongkong, to carry 7 lbs. extra for one win; 10 lbs. extra for two or more wins; 1st prize, cup, presented by Mr. Mody; 2nd prize, from Gymkhana Fund.

Mr. Johnson's Wizard, 11st 12lbs	(Mr. Johnson)	1
Mr. Walwyn's Queensberry, 11st 5lbs	(Mr. Walwyn)	2
Mr. Walwyn's Landskecht, 1st 5lbs	(Mr. Dobell)	3
Mr. Gresson's Kildare, 11st 12lbs	(Mr. Cruickshank)	0
Mr. Riddle's Pineapple, 11st 5lbs	(Mr. Cox)	0

LADIES' NOMINATION; ball and bucket race; the rider will pass his nominator at full speed outside the chalk line, the lady standing within the allotted space; the lady will throw a ball to the rider whilst passing, which he should catch and drop into a bucket further on, without slackening his speed; points will be given for catching, bucket, and speed, 3 runs. Three prizes from Gymkhana Fund.

Miss Jackson	Nom. Mr. F. J. Walwyn	1
Mrs. Hume	" A. C. R. Greene	2
Miss B. Jackson	" Capt. Rickman	3
Mrs. Morris	" Mr. H. Hill	0
Miss Phyllis Powell	" J. A. Higgon	0
Mrs. Brutton	" W. Loring	0
Mrs. Campbell	" Capt. Warren	0
Mrs. Simonds	" Simonds	0
Mrs. Bagnall Wild	" Mr. Wakefield	0
Mrs. Hawkins	" W. A. Cruickshank	0
Miss Blake	" Major Dobell	0
Miss Potts	" Mr. P. A. Cox	0
Mrs. Moxon	" G. C. Moxon	0
Miss Powell	" Maj. Sir H. McMahon	0
Miss Vernon	" Mr. R. H. Potts	0

HONGKONG FOOTBALL CLUB.

ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING.

The annual general meeting of the Hongkong Football Club was held on Thursday afternoon in the Cricket Pavilion. The chair was occupied by the President, the Hon. J. H. Stewart Lookhart, C.M.G., and there were also present Messrs. R. W. Castle, R.A., Dr. J. M. Atkinson, E. D. Sanders, C. T. Kew, J. F. Noble, H. W. Looker, A. R. Lowe, H. Pinckney, A. G. Ward, F. Browne (Hon. Secretary), and others.

The SECRETARY read the notice convening the meeting.

The CHAIRMAN, after briefly referring to the satisfactory condition of the report and accounts, moved that they be taken as read.

Mr. MAITLAND seconded and the motion was carried unanimously.

Mr. CHAIRMAN proposed that Lieut. Castle be re-elected Captain of the Rugby team.

Mr. MAITLAND seconded and the motion was carried.

Mr. PINCKNEY proposed that Mr. Looker be re-elected captain of the Association team.

Mr. MAITLAND seconded the motion, which was carried.

On the suggestion of Mr. LOOKER, it was decided, on the motion of Mr. MAITLAND, seconded by Mr. H. W. SLADE, that a captain for a second team be elected, the election to be left in the hands of the committee.

It was decided, on the proposal of the CHAIRMAN, seconded by Mr. LOOKER, that Mr. Noble be re-elected Treasurer.

It was proposed by Mr. LOOKER, and seconded by Mr. MAITLAND, that Mr. Browne be re-elected Hon. Secretary.

The motion was carried.

The following members were elected to serve on committee:—Messrs. Pinckney, Lowe, Atkinson, Kew, Warrel, and Howard.

On the motion of Mr. LOOKER, seconded by Mr. SANDERS, it was unanimously decided to petition the authorities for permission to erect a mat-shed on the football ground for the convenience of visitors.

This concluded the business.

At an extraordinary meeting held immediately afterwards it was proposed by Mr. LOOKER and seconded by Mr. MAITLAND that Rule 3 be altered so as to read 3 to form a quorum instead of five. A vote of thanks to the Chairman terminated the proceedings.

SHOOTING.

UNITED STATES VOLUNTEERS V. HONGKONG VOLUNTEERS.

A most interesting shooting match took place at Kowloon on Sunday afternoon, when teams selected from the U. S. Volunteers brought over from Manila in the *Tartar* and the Hongkong Volunteer Corps competed against each other. The affair attracted quite a large attendance. Shooting commenced shortly before four o'clock and was not over until about half-past six. The ranges were 200, 400, and 500 yards. It will be seen from the score below that the Hongkong men finished 307 ahead, but it is only fair to mention that the Springfields which the Americans were using were hardly the weapons for such an occasion, the wear and tear to which they have been subjected for some months past preventing them from being as true as they might have been. Major Chapman, in the course of a few words at the conclusion of the shooting, recognised this.

The following is the full score.

AMERICA.		HONGKONG.	
Capt. Flanders	72	Gunner Toller	92
Pt. Hagen	66	Sergt. Lammert	89
Pt. Walton	64	Gunner Stewart	88
Pt. Morrison	54	Sergt. Marshall	87
Pt. Nicholls	54	Lieut. Duncan	87
Corp. Hargraves	52	Sergt. Hart	87
Pt. Miller	50	Sgt. Drum Brown	86
Pt. Shaffer	50	Gunn. Macdonald	81
Pt. Hammond	48	Major Chapman	80
Pt. Halter	35	Sergt. Rutter	75

545

852

The reported death of Mr. Ching Chong, of Shanghai, was unfounded.

HONGKONG WATER POLO ASSOCIATION CHALLENGE SHIELD.

FINAL TIE.

The deciding struggle for the above shield took place on Monday at the Victoria Recreation Club's enclosure, where a large lighter been moored to provide extra accommodation for spectators.

The contestants were:—

Victoria Recreation Club "A" team, (Red caps)—Goal, Machado; Backs, Loureiro and C. Hance; Half-back, A. A. Alves (captain); Forwards, Armstrong, I. Jorge, and Henderson.

Kowloon, (white caps)—Goal, Sutton; Backs, Logan and Muller; Half-back, Lapsley; Forwards, Kenneth, Millar, and Humphreys (captain.)

The former team were the winners last year, when they were captained by W. A. Stopani, and before the game yesterday the odds were decidedly in their favour. Although there was no doubt as to the result there was a very good attendance of on-lookers.

In the opening race Jorge secured the ball and passed back to Alves, who shot wide. When Kowloon's goal keeper took the throw he carried his arm back with the ball through the goal, at which the goal judge put up his flag, and Mr. Meek, the referee, allowed a goal—a most erroneous decision. Not until the ball has left the goalkeeper's hands when he is taking a goal throw is it in play, and nothing can be scored when it is in touch. On the re-start Millar secured for Kowloon. He passed to Humphreys, who put in a good shot, and this being saved he made a strong attempt himself, but without luck. Then the V.R.C. men attacked and Sutton had to save from Armstrong at the expense of a corner. Immediately afterwards Alves made a good throw into goal and Henderson meeting it punched it through. Then Alves got one for himself and, after Kowloon had made an excursion to the other end, Armstrong outmanoeuvred Muller and notched a fourth point. This roused Kowloon and they made strenuous efforts to effect a score, and certainly they were unfortunate in not doing so, both Millar and Humphreys making good attempts. There was, however, no alteration at half time, when the score stood 4 to nil in favour of the V.R.C.

On play being resumed Jorge again was first on the ball, and from his pass Alves put in a terrific shot which struck the upright. There was very keen play for a considerable time and try as they would the V.R.C. could not get through the Kowloons' defence. Muller and Lapsley were playing very well for their team. By and bye the referee made a mistake in giving a foul against Logan, and Henderson, profiting, cleverly scored. Armstrong a little later picked up a weak throw-out by goalkeeper Sutton and registered No. 6; Alves was responsible, with a fine longshot, for No. 7, and Armstrong added the eighth. Time prevented any further addition to the score and the game ended with the V.R.C. winners by 8 goal to nothing.

A. A. Alves Jorge, Armstrong, and Henderson were the pick of the V.R.C. team, the first-named being without doubt the finest player in the Colony.

Of the Kowloon men Lapsley was by far the best. Muller played exceedingly well at back and Humphreys and Millar did good service forward. The team was not so much overplayed as the score indicated and no doubt will render a good account of itself in next season's contests.

THE ROYAL HONGKONG GOLF CLUB.

CAPTAIN'S CUP AND SILVER MEDAL FOR SEPTEMBER.

There was a fair attendance on the first day of the meeting and an average number of entries for the Cup. The links, however, had been badly cut up in consequence of a steeplechase on the previous day, and many were the growls when a player found his ball deeply embedded in a hoof mark. The ground was very soft owing to a good deal of rain having fallen during the previous two weeks, and riding should not have been permitted; it was a cruel shame.

CAPTAIN'S CUP.

Mr. C. A. Tomas	86	11	85
Mr. C. Palmer	95	9	86
Lieut. B. V. Brooke, R.N.	93	6	87
Mr. C. M. G. Burnie	92	5	87
Mr. G. Stewart	91	4	87

19 entries.

FOOL.

There were eight entries for this, the only returns being those given above for the Cup.

CORRESPONDENCE.

[We do not hold ourselves responsible for the opinions expressed by our correspondents.]

CORRESPONDENCE RELATING TO JOHN FOREMAN'S NEW EDITION ON THE PHILIPPINES.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS."

SIR,—I am taking the liberty of asking you to publish some correspondence that has passed between Mr. John Foreman and myself, relative to certain objectionable statements that were made in his new edition of his book on the Philippine Islands.—Very respectfully yours,

ROUNSEVELLE WILDMAN.

Hongkong, 11th September 1899.

(Copy.)

Hongkong, 10th June 1899.

John Foreman, Esq., care Messrs. Scribner & Sons, Publishers, New York City.

SIR,—My attention has been called to the New Edition of your work on the Philippine Islands. On page 367 I find the following sentence:—"The American Consul in Hongkong, Mr. Wildman, accepted the honorary post of Treasurer of the Patriotic League Fund." This is absolutely false. I never was Treasurer of it or any Association in the world, and neither have I ever heard of the "Patriotic League Fund." Your statement is nothing more or less than libel, and tends to damage my official character. Had not Mr. Spencer Pratt already obtained an order of the Court stopping the sale of your book, I should have done so. On page 568 occurs the following statement:—"Consul-General Pratt thereupon sent Emilio Aguinaldo with his Staff to Hongkong with instructions to Consul Wildman to put him in communication with Commodore Dewey, which he did, and Commodore Dewey, before he left China for Manila, gave orders to Consul-General Wildman to see that Aguinaldo and his staff followed on an American war ship." While this statement may not have been intended to be malicious, it is historically incorrect—(see my dispatch No. 83 page 336 of the "President's Message to Congress on the treaty of Peace between the United States and Spain.") If you had taken as much pains to have looked into the American documents relating to the war, as you did to get together the numerous proclamations of the Insurgent leaders, the last three chapters of your book would have been as valuable to futurity as the first edition was to the past.

I am leaving this letter open that your Publishers in America may read it.—Very truly yours,

ROUNSEVELLE WILDMAN.

London, 11th August, 1899.

Rounsevelle Wildman, Esq., Hongkong.

SIR,—Your esteemed letter of the 10th June reached me only on the 8th instant, and I hasten to reply to the same. I beg to enclose a copy of the new pages 567 and 568 which have been printed to take the place of the pages which you refer to, and every book sold in London, America, and the Far East will contain the amended pages. The necessary number of new pages, for the purpose, has gone forward to the respective Far Eastern ports by mail. You will observe that in these amended pages, your name is eliminated, and you are not referred to directly or indirectly. It affords me the greatest pleasure to find that in doing so I have fully anticipated your objections, and whilst assuring you that it was far from my mind to make personal allusions to any one with malicious intention, I beg to apologise most sincerely for any annoyance which the statements in question may have caused you.—I am, sir, very respectfully yours,

JOHN FOREMAN.

THE KOWLOON CUSTOMS.

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS." SIR,—That the paragraph in your issue of day last week about the Kowloon Customs Stations and head Custom House (head office) has not been the subject of public comment is to say the least surprising. What earthly use is there in saying the Kowloon Customs has no official status? Why will the Hongkong public bury its head in the sand? The Hongkong Chinese Custom-house is governed by the Viceroy and Hoppo. The Commissioner in turn governs the stations from Hongkong. He sits there as a Commissioner, hears petitions and inflicts fines, and otherwise behaves as a person of authority. In short his whole attitude is highly illegal from every point of view. I am not attacking the incumbent, but the office, though the present incumbent has been none too friendly to Hongkong in the past, when he was here in another capacity.

It would be interesting to know if the Postmaster General is aware that all official covers and correspondence since the stations came into the hands of the I. M. C., have been sent to those stations without having been stamped. How much does the Postal revenue lose yearly by this exemption, and why is it permitted?

With the usual apologies I remain, yours truly,

H

Hongkong, 11th September, 1899.

THE OVERCROWDING ON THE "TANTAR."

TO THE EDITOR OF THE "DAILY PRESS." DEAR SIR,—The discharged soldiers on the steamer *Tantar* are not surprised by statements made in the papers of this city by officials in authority in the U. S. Army trying to throw sand in the eyes of the public, joking with truth in such a manner as to excite the indignation of the men, and trying to put the blame on the victims while whitewashing their own mistakes. The sympathy of the European and especially of the British people with our sufferings, which sufferings the above named officials try to belittle, will never be forgotten by us, nor by the American people when the facts are fully made known to them. We desire to place the truth before the public, and would not worry you with our grievances. We would consider it beneath the dignity of our manhood to answer, were it not for humanity's sake, the humanity for which we have bled, and suffered, fought, the humanity that is denied us to-day.

We enlisted for the war with Spain. Our term of enlistment expired when the President of the United States declared peace restored, which was on the 11th April, he himself declaring at the same time that we were entitled to our discharge. The new Army Bill passed by Congress ordered our immediate discharge, but it provided that if we desired to enlist for six months more we could do so. We were entitled to put in our application for discharge, but our application was not accepted by the officials in Manila. We were kept against our will, against the terms of our contract, against the law passed by Congress in the new Army Bill. When we did get our discharge we did not receive our full transportation money, not because, as General Funston states, Congress had taken it away from the Privates at the beginning of the war, but because General Otis induced the General Paymaster to issue an arbitrary order, which has not to this day received the sanction of the Controller of the U. S. Treasury and of which Congress as yet knows nothing officially. Full travel pay was paid up to the beginning of January of this year to every discharged soldier, both to those who were disabled, to those who were discharged by favour and had never seen a day of active field service, and to the soldiers whose time had expired. None of the last named re-enlisted again. To force them to re-enlist this order was passed as above stated. When we on the 15th August received our discharge at Manila, we received no subsistence for three days and had to live on our own money. When we did get subsistence we in our weak state could not live on it, nor could we have done so had we been healthy men. And although our quarters were not required by the troops nor the banks we had slept on needed elsewhere, we were ordered out,

had to go into a place on the opposite side of the street, and there had to sleep on the bare floor, getting additional colds. Here the officials allowed a gambling hell to be run for two weeks every hour out of the twenty-four. The *Manila Freedom* at last published the facts. To say that the officers did not know would be an insult to their intelligence. It was a game to ruin the men and to get more to re-enlist after they had lost their all. A half dozen re-enlisted and many more stayed behind. If a discharged man wanted to engage in business he was refused a licence. Re-enlist, work for the Government, or get out of the Island was the answer received.

We were seventeen days in Manila after our discharge before being assigned to the steamer *Tartar*. We had no choice or say as to what steamer we would travel by, but were put on any steamer they thought fit. They assigned 450 to the *Tartar*, 300 to the *Newport*, and others had gone on the *City of Para*. General Funston says we could have gone on any steamer. As a matter of fact we had to take the *Tartar* or nothing. We appealed, but could get no satisfaction. He says the Regulars are alone the kickers and that the Kansas Regiment is satisfied. He would not say so if he had heard the curses of the Kansas boys. For the Kansas boys to make a formal complaint, however, would involve a court martial, because they are not yet mustered out. Furthermore, we Regulars have nothing to do with General Funston or the Kansas Regiment. Our transportation certificate is made out to the master of the steamer *Tartar* and our subsistence to the U.S.A. Quarter-master-in-charge.

Every day our little stock of money was getting smaller. Our hearts were set to see the old home and the friends who had been waiting and looking for months and had waited and looked in vain. We were all anxious to get away, for the discharged men are nearly all more or less sick and weak, their constitutions all but ruined, and they needed a change of climate to get well. We were charged a dollar a day in the hospital, for which some of us hold receipts. To say that under the circumstances we were anxious to get home is a mild statement of the case, but to say that we were willing to ship on a plank, that we knew and saw the condition of the *Tartar*, is untrue. We expected at least humane treatment, and a good deal more, but no horse that has been shipped from the United States to Manila, no mule that has gone the same way, has been treated or has suffered as we have on the *Tartar*. Three days in a storm under hatches would sweep half of us away. As to the food, many of us can hardly eat it without suffering for it afterwards, nearly every man having stomach troubles. There may have been a few who in their over-anxiety to get away may have made some such remark as that referred to above, for at the time it seemed that our very existence was overlooked, nothing was done, and while we were entitled to receive the first consideration we received only the last.

Our Consul here, to whom we complained, said he could do nothing for us except to make them put the steamer in a sanitary condition. He has not even done that. We had to appeal to the Harbour Master to enforce the British shipping laws, and to the sympathy of the public, who declared it to be an outrage and a disgrace to those in authority to treat men in such a fashion. If we ever had confidence we have it to-day in the public of Hongkong, and British law, to which we are forced to appeal—we say it with shame—because our Government has broken us. Our statements are the truth and nothing but the truth, and we submit them to the judgment of the public knowing that the public will judge aright.

Thanking you for making our case known.—
We are, yours faithfully and thankfully,
FRANK E. SHERMAN,
JACOB T. F. KOCH,
HARRY G. PETTICHARD,
S. A. SNYDER,
E. E. BOYLE,
JOHN L. DIMMICKS,
JESSE H. LOHR.

P.S.—Did space permit all the passengers on the steamer *Tartar* would have signed their names to the above statements.

THE GERMAN AND FRENCH MISSIONARY DIFFICULTY IN TUNGKUN.

HONGKONG'S NEW TERRITORY A LAND OF
PROMISE FOR THE OPPRESSED.

In a recent leading article we made reference to the particulars of a conflict which had arisen between the German and French missions at Pakkong, in the Tungkun district, as published in the *Ostasiatische Lloyd*. The last issue of our contemporary contains details of the settlement arrived at, communicated by the Rhenish Mission.

It appears that a conference was held in the German Consulate at Canton, both the German and French Consuls being present, at which the case of each side was stated. The representative of the French mission, Father Julien, expressed to Herr Zahn, the German missionary, his sincere regret for the occurrences at Pakkong. He also undertook to pay \$50 as compensation for the articles stolen from Herr Zahn and that his watch should be restored. Both gentlemen, Herr Zahn as well as Father Julien, gave an undertaking not to visit Pakkong for three months, in order that the Chinese Government, uninfluenced by either of them, may be able to punish the criminals. The Consuls addressed a joint letter to the Viceroy, urging the exemplary punishment of the robbers, and promising that they (the Consuls) would abstain from interference in the case.

The Mission in its letter expresses a hope that the understanding arrived at through the instrumentality of the Consul Dr. Zimmermann, may bear good fruit and that the mission stations elsewhere may be exempt from such incidents as those which occurred at Pakkong. It remains to be seen, however, the letter continues, whether Father Julien's promise to remove will be carried out, and whether the Chinese Government will punish the criminals. If these points are not complied with the question will not be finally settled.

The *Ostasiatische Lloyd* also publishes extracts from a letter in which Herr Zahn describes the origin of the trouble. According to this account there was a question of a debt, and while some of the parties concerned sought the assistance of the Roman Catholic Mission others, wishing to gain time, came to Herr Zahn, seeking to secure the protection of the German Mission, but Herr Zahn made it clear to them that it was not his business to help them. Also about the same time a Catholic chapel was established in a house upon which a Protestant had a mortgage. These circumstances seem to have led to a general quarrel, culminating in the attack upon the village already described.

"The former prosperity of the village," Herr Zahn says, "is now destroyed; the despoiled people have to look for a new home and they naturally direct their glance to the territory recently ceded to England behind Hongkong."

FOREIGN SHOPS IN CANTON,

Mr. R. W. Mansfield, in his Consular report on the trade of Canton for last year, says:—

It must always be a matter of surprise to find that in a vast and wealthy city like Canton no shops in European style should be seen, though foreigners have traded here for so many years. The reason is not far to seek. In defiance of the Treaty, which declares the city open to trade, the Chinese authorities have always maintained that the clause of the Chefoo Convention limiting the area of exemption from likin to the concessions (which clause was expressly refused ratification) must be considered as binding until the further consideration between the two Governments (provided for in Clause I of the Additional Article signed in London in 1885) has been given to the subject. Acting on this view, which is obviously absurd, all goods arriving at Canton for the city are, and have been immediately on leaving the custom-house subjected to the levy of likin, in spite of innumerable protests from the foreign Consuls; and some few attempts to open places of business have been defeated by underhand proceedings taken against the landlords of the houses and shops sought to be used for the purpose.

A few months ago the question was put to me by a British subject if he had a right to open a piece goods shop in the city, and take his goods there from the steamer free of likin. I notified the applicant rights, and informed the Viceroy that I had done so, warning the latter and the likin office that any attempt to interfere with the goods or their owner would be made the subject of a claim against the official concerned. The usual arguments and protests were of course forthcoming, but I closed the discussion by stating that I was acting under instructions, and I am glad to say that hitherto there has been no cause of complaint.

I would like to strongly urge on British merchants that there is an excellent opening here for large miscellaneous stores on the lines of "Whiteley's" for the sale of all kinds of foreign goods. Clocks, lamps, musical boxes, mechanical toys, jewellery, &c., would find a ready sale among the many wealthy families here. A store of the kind kept by Messrs. Vrand and Co., Shanghai, would, I feel convinced, bring large profits, and would be the means of introducing to the Chinese numberless articles unknown to them at present. Many kinds of tinned provisions would also find a sale. Difficulties might arise at first, but with capital and energy excellent results should eventually be obtained.

THE SHANGHAI GENERAL CHAMBER OF COMMERCE.

Minutes of meeting of the Committee of the Chamber of Commerce held at the offices of the Chamber, 1 Kinkiang Road, on Tuesday, the 5th of September, 1899, at 4 p.m.

PRESENT.

Messrs. W. D. Little (in the chair), C. Broderick, J. Chapsal, E. A. Hewett, R. Inglis, A. Werth, and the Secretary.

The Minutes of the last meeting were read and confirmed.

REDUCTION OF CABLE RATES.

A letter from the Hongkong Chamber of Commerce was read that contained resolutions passed by them in favour of a reduction in cable rates, and it was decided to reply that this Chamber is entirely in sympathy with them, and would be glad to know what course they were about to pursue to carry their resolutions into effect.

GENERAL INEFFICIENCY OF THE CHINESE TELEGRAPH OFFICE.

A letter signed by the principal firms of Swatow complaining of the generally inefficient working of the Chinese telegraphs was laid before the meeting, and it was resolved to forward a copy of same to the Director-General, calling his attention to the serious nature of the complaints made.

DELEGATES TO THE PHILADELPHIA CONGRESS.

A letter from Mr. Thos. R. Whelan accepting the post of representative of the Chamber at Philadelphia was read. No reply from Mr. J. G. Purdon has been received as yet.

THE WRECK OF THE "MORGAN CITY."

PARTICULARS OF THE CATASTROPHE.

Onomichi, 4th September.

The United States transport *Morgan City* has been wrecked on the shores of the Inland Sea at a spot some ten miles distant from the town of Onomichi which is equi-distant between the well known Japanese ports Yokohama and Nagasaki. A disaster which might have been a dramatic tragedy of the war, the loss of the ship, owing to favourable circumstances, has been unattended with any serious loss of life or scene of panic such as oftentimes accompanies the sinking of a great ocean vessel crowded, as was the *Morgan City*, literally to the coamings of the hatches with human beings. The manner in which the disaster has been saved from leaving the slightest stigma on the name of American soldiers looking death in the face is quite level with the reputation they have achieved and retained throughout their nation's present war troubles.

The *Morgan City* left San Francisco on 10th August carrying 900 officers and men of the United States regular Army with 62 of a crew. The regiments represented in this large augmentation of the Army in the Philippines are the 3rd, 4th, 14th, 18th, 21st, 23rd, 25th, 4th

Cavalry, and one Company of the Signal Corps. Major Wittich is in command of the troops. First Lieutenant Casler is the managing commander of the ship and Capt. Dorris is in full command. Arriving at Kobe on Friday evening, direct from San Francisco, the *Morgan City* lay an hour there before proceeding on her voyage. Her course was through the Inland Sea to reach Nagasaki where she was due to ship coal and water. A pilot was taken from Kobe and it is stated in explanation of what befel the vessel that he (the pilot) had been on duty without sleep for 36 hours on end previous to taking charge of the *Morgan City*.

The night twixt Friday and Saturday proved dull, foggy and rainy as midnight passed. The difficulties in the navigation of the Inland Sea were however safely passed for some hundred or so miles of the way. The ship's striking occurred at about 3.40 on Saturday morning, when, as stated, the transport was within 8 or 10 miles of being abreast of Onomichi. The signal of her danger was conveyed to the guard on duty by the sounding of the "Slow" and "Full Speed Astern" gongs. As it afterwards appeared the ship was discovered to be working for the point of an island, on striking which, according to the calculation of the pilot, so it is stated, she would have ripped open her side and sunk at once in deep water with what result to the vast ship's company can easily be imagined. It was seen that it was impossible to clear the point so the helm was put up as hard a port and as speedily as it might. The effect of porting the helm, it was seen, would be the ripping open of the vessel's side as described. The course decided on to save this catastrophe was that of keeping the ship's head straight on to the land with the order previously given of course for full speed astern. The transport took the land with a heavy jar which awoke everybody on board and indicated that her speed must have been but about half reduced from the time the order for full speed astern was given. The grounding brought the troops on deck at once but from all accounts there was neither confusion nor panic nor even great alarm from the time the ship first struck to the time when the shipwrecked men bivouacked under shreds of her canvas on the beach. The officers were around directing their men simply to obey orders, there being no immediate danger or call for excitement. These orders were taken in the spirit in which they were given and were generally observed. The land was easily seen from the ship's deck, the vessel being in fact to all appearance right on top of the rocks lining the shore of the island.

An examination forward with the view of determining the state of the vessel was the first step. It was found that she was not making water and it was decided to attempt to get her back to deep water again. The engines were set full speed astern and to aid this movement the troops were shifted from port to starboard and starboard to port alternately several times, so that the swing thus induced in the hull of the ship might assist in working her off her position on the rocks. This was finally accomplished in about an hour's time and the big transport with her great human freight came smoothly into deep water again. The case proved the worse for the shift however. It was speedily discovered that she now made water forward at a great rate, the shifting of the hull from its previous elevation having apparently left open a rip in her plates. So quickly was she now filling in fact that in only a short time, nine feet of water was reported forward. It was evident to the officers that the vessel must go down at very short notice and the decision was taken to head her straight for the sandy beach on the starboard side—several miles across the intervening channel. All the way to this beach the ship was drawing down lower into the water. She lowered so quickly indeed that she was soon flooded forward, and in a short time her stoke and engine room were flooded, the fires being therefore drowned out. At the same time the water got among the bunker coals on one side, the result being that the vessel was just on her last inches above water as she reached the sand. Still during this time there was no undue commotion or confusion, the previous good order and discipline prevailing to the end. The vessel got upon the sand and left sufficient freeboard to ensure pre-

sent safety for those on board. Meantime while way was being made towards the shore, the boats had been got out, signals of distress shown, and a crowd of Japanese boats brought along. By the time the transport was on the land, a second time it was daylight and the landing of the men, which was at once commenced, was got into operation under the most favourable conditions. The crowds of native boats which had come along to offer assistance were utilised along with the ship's own boats. The whole ship's company numbering close on a thousand in all were on shore in a few hours. In the next few hours the ship went heavily to one side. This however did not prevent the removal of a large quantity of stores, detachments of the men being detailed off to bring these ashore. It was in connection with this salvage work that the only casualty which has occurred in the loss of the ship took place. Toward three in the afternoon when a number of the men were in the tween decks and elsewhere throughout the vessel she suddenly began to slip into deep water. The men had barely time to save themselves before the hull was completely submerged. As she then lay the transport showed above water only a small part of her bow, the upper section of the masts and of her funnel. This ended the matter so far as the ship was concerned. The men on shore were receiving the best of treatment from the Japanese, and as they were able to utilise the ship's canvas for shelter and the ship's stores, so far as saved, for food they made out on the whole very well. It remains to mention that the *Yoshino Kan*, flagship of the Japanese Squadron, offered any assistance desired in the way of medical aid, while the petty officers of the ship made up a present of tobacco for each of the petty officers and soldiers of the troops on board the *Morgan City*. Regarding the supposed casualty the facts are that on the roll being called when matters were in some sort arranged on shore it was found that one man was missing. It is supposed that he had gone down with the ship when she finally sank.

In addition to the other manifestations of interest and sympathy it ought to be mentioned that the Japanese Red Cross Society sent along a supply of eggs sufficient to put three round to every man. Further supplies of tobacco were forthcoming and the police made such arrangements as prevented any interference or undue crowding by the people who came to the scene in great crowds.

Cap. Dorris yesterday proceeded to Nagasaki and made arrangements for the despatch of another transport to the scene of the wreck and it is expected that the men will be on their voyage again in a day or two.—*Kobe Herald*.

REPORTED APPROACHING DETHRONEMENT OF THE EMPEROR,

The *N. C. Daily News* publishes the following telegram from its native correspondent at Peking dated 7th September:—

Arrangements for the dethronement of the unfortunate Emperor Kuang Hsu are proceeding apace. The Empress Dowager's choice has definitely fallen upon Pu Ts'uan, the nine-year old son of Duke Tsai Lan, to succeed Kuang Hsu as Emperor of China. This Imperial candidate can only speak the Manchu dialect and knows no Chinese. Kuang Hsu has already been forced to draw up a memorial to the Empress Dowager asking to be allowed to resign his throne owing to his chronic illness, vide Imperial decree of the 4th instant, and a pretence will be made by the Empress Dowager to refuse accepting the resignation and to ask the Emperor to consider the matter again. This will be done three times, and at the third time the resignation is to be accepted as showing the Emperor is really anxious to resign. The dethronement is expected to take place shortly. The troops of Prince Ching and Jung Lu will be under arms on the occasion in case something untoward happens. Duke Tsai Lan is a close friend of Prince Ching and there are doubts whether Jung Lu's party will be satisfied at this further strengthening of the Ching faction by the appointment of the new Emperor. There are rumours that, perhaps, Russia will have something to say before the dethronement takes

place, as Chinese officials in Peking have recently reported that the Russians are preparing to send a large force to Peking in a few days.

GENERAL SU'S MISSION TO KWANGCHAUWAN

Since the French demand in 1895 for the lease of Kwangchauwan and its cession to them by China very little has been written on the subject owing to its being little known now-a-days to the outside world, except to junkmen trading between Hainan Island and the West Kwangtung and Tonkin coasts. But in the time of the previous Ming dynasty Kwangchauwan was the headquarters of large fleets of pirates who, by reason of their hold of the place, dominated not only the sea route north of Hainan Island, but the whole coast line between Kwangchauwan and Tonkin. This state of affairs is still as true now as it was three centuries ago, and the French at Kwangchauwan will easily be the masters of the whole Kwangtung and Tonkin coasts. The Chinese know this, but they did not at the time of the French demand, and they are now trying their best to counteract their fatal cession of Kwangchauwan.

The Chinese claim that the French demanded, at first, a lease of only 100 li square of territory, and with the object of delimiting the boundaries of the ceded region, Chou, acting Tactai of Kiungchow, and Pan, Tactai of the Kuo Lien Ching Intendancy, were sent as Commissioners to meet a French Commissioner, early this year. Arrived at Kwangchauwan, however, the Chinese Commissioners found that the French were not satisfied with the mite first demanded and, in addition, wanted an extra territory of over double the original demand. This the two Tactais were not prepared to grant, but they zealously went to work to find why the French wanted such an out-of-the-way place as Kwangchauwan. Reference to the local yamen records soon explained the importance of the place vis-à-vis Hainan Island, the Kwangtung coast, west of Lienchow Peninsula, and the Gulf of Tonkin, and it soon became apparent to the Chinese Government that any further cession of islands and territory in the vicinity of Kwangchauwan would not only make it impregnable from the sea and mainland, but also throw the whole western coast of the province as well as Hainan Island completely at the mercy of the French. With Kwangchauwan alone in the hands of the French, and the neighbouring islands and mainland in the hands of a strong Chinese force, the mischief will not be so great and, with this in view, the Chinese Government is determined not to yield all the French demand.

Already have the Chinese and French Commissioners met three separate times, but without result, as neither side would give way, and this has been the reason for sending General Su to settle the question, once for all. The French like the General, whom they style Marshal Su, as he has been very friendly, uniformly courteous, and liberal minded in his dealings with the French on the Tonkin Kwangtung borders, General's headquarters being in the city of Chingchow, to the north of Pakhoi, and a few miles east of the French borders, while the Chinese, on the other hand, have great confidence in him as he commanded the victorious Chinese troops at Liangshan (Langson) in the late Franco-Chinese war in 1884. As General Su has nearly 20,000 troops in the vicinity of Chingchow who are also pretty well armed, this gives colour to the report that the Empress Dowager's last verbal commands to the General—when he left Peking last week—were to fight the French if necessary, without waiting for instructions from the capital.—*N. C. Daily News*.

Here is an opening for Company promoters in Shanghai. A private letter from Hongkong dated the 1st inst. says:—What do you think the ferry boats of the Star Ferry Boat Co. take over daily from Hongkong to Kowloon and back in the way of passengers? Eleven thousand a day, and if Shanghai had a similar connection with Pootung there is no reason why she should not have in a short time a very large traffic.—*N. C. Daily News*.

THE U.S. MINISTER'S TOUR.

Shanghai, 4th September.
Mr. E. H. Conger, the U.S. minister to China, accompanied by Mr. Cheshire, Secretary to the U.S. Legation arrived here on the U.S. steamer Princeton, and Mr. Conger is the guest of Mr. John Goodnow, the Consul-General. This morning a representative of the Mercury had the pleasure of an interview with the minister, who was considerably amused at the wonderful dispatch which Benter had wired out to Shanghai as to the object of his trip being to investigate personally the decrease of American trade in China.
The Customs Returns, which do not represent the actual importations of American goods into China," said Mr. Conger, "show how utterly fallacious the telegram was. During the last six months American imports in cotton, sheetings and flour have doubled themselves. Consequently there is no need for me to investigate 'decreases' in American imports."
"I am taking the opportunity of a trip to the various treaty ports to make myself acquainted with the condition of things, and to inquire into two or three questions of importance to Americans. There is no need for me to touch the question of the Hankow Canton Railway being built by an American syndicate as that has been well managed here."
Mr. Conger expects to leave Shanghai for Canton a week hence in the U.S.S. Princeton, and will return to Shanghai and visit the Yangtze ports in the Monocacy.
To-day he received visits from American residents and Chinese officials.—Mercury.

FORMOSA.

Twatutia, 31st August.
It is said about two million tons of railway material are to be landed at Takow, and that special flat-bottomed boats will have to be built for the landing of this cargo as the ordinary cargo boats cannot be used owing to the heavy sea which prevails there and the weight of the material. And as soon as this cargo is landed the work on the railway, will, it is said, be commenced.
Trade in Twatutia and Banks is said to be very dull just now, and we are told there are over 150 vacant houses in the two places. Business in Taipei City is said to be equally dull, the only people doing any business worth speaking of, being the dealers in drugs and medicines, for which there is said to be a growing demand among the Chinese of the island.
From the 30th instant the N.Y.K. will have two boats running on the route between Japan and Keelung, the Yokohama Maru and the Omi Maru, in place of one only as heretofore. The schedule of sailings will be as under:
A gentlemen who recently made a trip to Tokohau informs us that 16 Chinese met their deaths at the hands of the savages in that district last month. It seems a pity the Authorities cannot do something to put a stop to such a disgraceful state of things. Surely something might be done.
It is said a Commission is shortly to be appointed by the Governor-General to inquire into the numerous complaints received against the Commissioners of Customs. From all we can learn this is much needed.
On the 21st instant some savages attacked a trading post at Jusanansho, Sankakuya district, killing four Japanese, looting all the property, and setting the house on fire. The police have, we believe, gone to investigate.
It has been decided to adopt the same weights and measures regulations here as in Japan proper, with the modifications required merely to suit the difference of government.
Some time ago certain Chinese in Banks applied for sanction to the formation of an association for the importation of Chinese Labourers under the regulations lately promulgated. We now hear another such association is proposed consisting of Chinese and Japanese jointly, and that the first association is in a better in consequence, imagining that it would be the only association of the kind allowed by the authorities.
The absence of proper arrangements for the registration of land in Formosa is causing much dissatisfaction amongst owners of property, and we think, very naturally, for where clear title

can be shown, as it can, we believe by all the foreigners who claim the ownership of land in the island, there is no reason why the registration should not be proceeded with at once, as it is out of all question to ask those to wait for the registration of their property who can show a perfectly clear title, simply because there are some whose title is not so clear. We would recommend that where clear titles can be shown the registration should be made at once, and where this is not the case, that present occupiers should be allowed to register provisionally as owners until the question of ownership and title has been properly investigated, when titles could be registered according to the result of the investigations. This would, we think, be found to satisfy all parties.—Formosan.

CANTON NOTES.

[FROM THE "CHUNG NGOI SAN PO."]
The prepared opium tax has been farmed out by a merchant under the name of Wing On Fong, the annual rent being \$120,000. Every opium shop through out the whole province of Kwangtung is required to pay to the farmer three candereens for every taal of prepared opium exposed for sale. The same tax was formerly collected by the officers of the Government.
Kang Yi, the grand commissioner, is now residing in the Chinchew temple. He has issued a notification prohibiting the people from presenting complaints. He has resolved to economise expenses by abolishing some useless posts and to make an increase of \$800,000 to the likin taxes and \$600,000 to the salt tax annually. He is also willing to sanction the requests of the farming of fantan and various other forms of gambling, for he says that gambling cannot be prohibited in Kwangtung.
Viceroy Chang Chih-tung has sent a weiyuen named Lai-Ka-Lau to Canton to investigate the works and plans of the proposed Canton and Hankow railway.
A junk running between Canton and Sancho, a maket place in the Pun-yu district, was robbed near Wochung while on her voyage to Canton. The usual plan was used, some robbers boarding the junk as passengers. After the robbers had abstracted everything from the junk, including the property of the passengers male and female, who were stripped of their clothing, they compelled the junk master to run ashore and beach the vessel.

HONGKONG.

There were 2,122 visitors to the City Hall Museum last week, of whom 409 were Europeans. The appointment of Mr. C. Baines to be an Inspector of Nuisances is gazetted.
At the Magistracy on Thursday Chan Fuk Hing, of 280, Queen's Road Central, was charged with forging labels on condensed milk tins. Mr. Gedge appeared for the prosecution and Mr. Hastings for the defence. The further hearing was adjourned until Tuesday next.
In addition to plague the only cases of communicable disease reported last week were two of enteric fever, one of which proved fatal.
It is reported, says the Manila Times, that the British steamer Nero, from Hongkong, has been driven by bad weather into Dagupan and is held by the rebels just as the Lacson is.
We learn that the Chinese Maritime Customs have opened a station at Boddam Cove, on the Island of Tong-ho, about fifteen miles South of Macao, to replace the station at Chung-chow, which is now British territory. All junks going east or west of Macao have now to call at the new station.
The following returns of the average amount of Bank notes in circulation and of specie in reserve in Hongkong, during the month ended 31st August, as certified by the Managers of the respective Banks, are published:—

Banks.	Average amount.	Specie in reserve.
Chartered Bank of India, Australia and China,	\$2,605,052	\$1,600,000
Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation	6,256,547	5,000,000
National Bank of China, Limited,	448,410	150,000
Total	\$9,310,009	\$6,750,000

The Shaukiwan Road was breached by a flood on Wednesday night at the Hongkong side of the Metropole Hotel. A temporary bamboo bridge is to be put up as soon as practicable to pass light traffic, pending the restoration of the roadway.
On the new reclamation about 50 yards from Wu Woh Street a quantity of wood is stacked and about eleven o'clock on Thursday morning, among this wood the dead body of a Chinaman was found seated on a stone with his throat cut from ear to ear. There was a razor by his side and there is no doubt the man committed suicide. The police were informed and the body removed to the mortuary.
On Monday afternoon Mr. G. J. W. King offered for sale by auction three lots of Crown land. Kowloon Inland Lot No. 915, which is situate at Tai Kok Tsui, and Rural Building Lot No. 100, which is situate in Barker Road, the upset price of the former being \$4,080 and that of the latter \$6,000, were not sold. Inland Lot No. 1,559, which is situate in Queen's Road East near Tai Wong Temple, was keenly competed for. The upset price was \$900 and the Lot was sold to Mr. Chau Hung Tsang for \$2,100, which is at the rate of \$1.75 per square foot. The contents in square feet are \$1,200. The annual rent is \$22.
At Singapore there is some talk of throwing the Diamond Jubilee Memorial funds into the Official Assignee's hands for liquidation, that is to say, that the money is to be returned to the subscribers. We hope it will not come to that in Hongkong, but the position certainly calls for reconsideration. If there be any truth in report that the late Mr. Granville Sharp has left "The Homestead" for a Peak Hospital, together with an endowment, it would hardly be necessary to proceed with the hospital branch of the Jubilee Memorial scheme, and as to the Jubilee Road branch of the scheme, a deadlock seems to have been reached.
At the Magistracy on Saturday a coolie was sentenced to three months' imprisonment for purse snatching. It appears that on Friday afternoon Miss Emma Symons, who is connected with the Salvation Army Home in Queen's Road Central, was going along Queen's Road Central carrying a bag in which was \$9.50 when a coolie who was passing snatched the bag out of her hand and bolted. Mr. Harry Harron, of the Quarry Bay Sugar Works, happened to be passing, and followed the thief. He made one or two grabs at the latter, who dodged him, but let the bag fall from under his coat. Mr. Harron picked up the bag and handed it to the owner and then renewed his chase after the thief, being joined by P.C. Brayil, and ultimately caught him on the Praya, near the Central Market. The Magistrate (Mr. Gompertz warmly complimented Mr. Harron for what he had done.
The Manila Times says:—Messrs. Smith, Bell & Co. are now owners of one of the finest launches that ply upon these waters. Its measurements are as follows: Length, 72 feet; breadth, 13½ feet; gross tonnage, 59.91 tons; net tonnage, 40.75 tons. It is constructed to accommodate fifty-six persons. Just now, as the call is so strong owing to the presence of numerous American transports, she will be used for towing purposes and possibly for ferry traffic. Later on she may be employed in the interinsular trade. Her engines were built by the firm of Tung Tai & Co., Hongkong, and at present she is called the Yau On. As soon as she is registered under the Stars and Stripes her appellation will be changed to the Albert. She left Hongkong on Thursday, August 31st, and arrived on September 5th. On her passage she met with the United States steamship Pam-panga. The voyage was uneventful, only one day's delay being caused by adverse currents.
At the Magistracy on Tuesday a washerman was sentenced to six months' imprisonment for stealing \$125.80, a watch and gold albert, the property of Mr. J. W. Kinghorn. On Sunday afternoon Mr. Kinghorn lay down in his sleeping garments in his room at the Hongkong Hotel, and on awaking he found the money and watch and chain missing. The matter was reported to the police, and a search was instituted. The watch and chain were found to have been pawned. On Tuesday morning the man who had pawned them returned to the pawnbroker's with the ticket to redeem them, and the pawnbroker had him arrested.

The stamp revenue last month amounted to \$30,389, being an increase of \$7,545 on the amount collected in the corresponding month of last year.

The Hongkong Branch of the China Association in its recently issued report, dated 11th May, 1899, refers as follows to the New Territory:—The long-sought-for extension of the colony of Hongkong has been also obtained, but under circumstances that render it very doubtful whether the acquisition will be of any great or immediate benefit to the colony. The Convention was signed on the 9th June, 1898, to take effect on the 1st July following. Possession was not taken until the 16th April last; and was accompanied and followed by a series of incidents which reflect no very great credit on our methods of government, and which are not at an end. The boundaries of our new territories are still unsettled and the arrangements for its utilization and improvement are still in embryo.

Referring to the Interport Rifle Match the *Singapore Free Press* says:—A letter has been received from Mr. M. S. Northcote, Hon. Sec. H.K.R.A., in which he says:—"As our annual Volunteer encampment will be held this year from the 20th to 30th October and many of our team are members of the Corps I regret that the dates you suggest would not be convenient to us. We would suggest the same dates as last year, viz., 1st to 15th November, both dates inclusive. If you are agreeable to these dates I will communicate with Shanghai on receipt of your answer." Mr. Northcote also alludes to the matter of the Trophy that has been in abeyance so many years, and proposes that this subject be again considered after the date of the match of 1899 is settled. Mr. C. M. Phillips, Hon. Sec. S.R.A., writes by first mail to say that the Hongkong dates will be accepted by Singapore. It may therefore be considered that the consent of Shanghai is certain.

At the Magistracy on the 8th Sept. Private Richard Bailey, of the Royal Welch Fusiliers, was charged with stealing \$62 from J. Mitchell, light-keeper, Gap Rock Lighthouse. When charged defendant said, "Mr. Mitchell asked me to have a drink and he asked me to come outside. I went outside and he said: Here you are, and gave me a bundle of dollar notes and said: go and treat the boys. I did not know anything more about it until I found myself in the Police Station." According to the evidence for the prosecution Mr. Mitchell was at the Kowloon Hotel the previous night sitting outside next to a soldier. He subsequently came across in the launch to Hongkong with Mr. W. H. Osborne, landlord of the Kowloon Hotel. On reaching Hongkong he found that an envelope marked "on Her Majesty's service" and which contained the money was missing. He told Mr. Osborne, and the latter said he would make enquiries when he got back. On getting back to the hotel he saw defendant, who was the man who had sat next to Mr. Mitchell, and as he suspected him he watched him closely. He saw him ask for a bottle of whisky and tender a five dollar bill in payment. He also pulled out some paper. Mr. Osborne asked to look at it and on examining it he found that it was marked "On Her Majesty's service," and that it also contained some memorandum. Mr. Mitchell had told him that there was some memorandum on the package he had lost. Mr. Osborne sent for a policeman. P. S. Kerr came, and on searching defendant found \$10.49 in his pocket and \$45 in his boots. Defendant was drunk at the time. Defendant, who had nothing to say, was sentenced, to three months' hard labour.

MISCELLANEOUS.

A Tokyo despatch says the Railway Bureau at Tientsin has contracted with Messrs. Arnold, Harberg & Co. for the purchase of 10,000,000 tons of Japanese coal for the steam engines used in pumping out the water from the Kaiping colliery, which was recently flooded and the working of which had to be suspended in consequence. The price contracted for is 7 taels per ton.

H.M.S. *Pigmy* left Shanghai for Ningpo on the 6th September owing to the missionary trouble at Taichow; she was expected to return

in a couple of days, and would then proceed to Hankow to relieve the *Esch*, which is now stationed there. The *Esch* returns to Shanghai.

The Foochow correspondent of the *Echo de Chine*, in a letter dated 16th August, mentions the departure of Mr. Siemssen, the German Consul, and goes on to say:—Mr. Wintzer is the German Consul *pro tem*, so that with the exception of the English Consul we will only have very young consuls here, as Dr. Gracey, the American Consul, is going on leave shortly and his place will be filled by his son. *Place aux jeunes.*

A fire occurred at the Hongkew Police Station, Shanghai, on the night of the 6th September, due to the overheating of a stove pipe in the cookhouse. The roof fell in, but the lower part of the building was not much damaged. The China Fire Insurance Co. was interested with a risk of Tls. 9,000.

Telegraphic information has been received from the head office of the Yokohama Specie Bank of the results of the half yearly general meeting of the shareholders held on Saturday last. The dividend was declared at 15 per cent. per annum and after the ordinary half-yearly meeting an extraordinary general meeting of the shareholders was held and the resolution to double the Bank's capital, making it 24 million yen, was carried.

The action against the *Argyll* for damages brought by Mr. Fujita has been settled outside the Court on payment of a sum in compensation for the damage done. Messrs. E. H. Hunter and Mr. Narutaki, the Mayor, acting in his private capacity, together with some other gentlemen, were asked, and succeeded in arranging the compromise. The adjourned hearing of the case accordingly did not come off.—*Kobe Chronicle.*

The *N. C. Daily News* of the 7th September says:—The news of the death of Mr. Alexander Thurnburn, which occurred at the General Hospital at 5 a.m. yesterday, was received with very sincere regret by his numerous friends in Shanghai. He came out to Shanghai early in the sixties as a tea-taster in the firm of Smith, Kennedy & Co., and subsequently became a sharebroker, a profession which he followed up to the time of his being taken ill some weeks ago. He was a gentleman in the fullest sense of the term, cultivated, courteous, and of the nicest integrity. Some years ago he undertook the Secretaryship of the General Hospital and held the post until his death. The Sisters there will keenly regret him. Whether fortune smiled or frowned on him he was always the same, and there was no man among the older residents here more generally and deservedly respected. He died a bachelor. His brother is the well-known Manager of the Mercantile Bank at Hongkong.

COMMERCIAL.

TEA.

SHANGHAI, 9th September.—(From Messrs. Lewis & Co.'s Circular.)—Black Tea.—The greater portion of the settlements reported are said to be for shipment to the Continent. Prices show no decline. Stocks are reduced to a small compass, and further arrivals for this season are expected to be unimportant.

Settlements reported are:—

Ningchow.....	1,569	1-chest,	Tls. 21.85 at 23.70
Keemun	87	"	" 19
Hohow	1,105	"	" 17 at 19
Wenchow.....	414	"	" 14.75 at 16.50
Oonnun	210	"	" 15.90

3,385

Stock, 5,945 half-chests, against 8,823 half-chests at same time last year.

Green Tea.—Telegraphed sales of new crop Country Teas from New York are even more disappointing than first valuations. Pingsueys.—Some of the latest settlements show a decline of 1 tael to 1 tael a picul on previous rates and demand has slackened considerably. Third Gunpowders are enquired for by buyers for Batoum, and a few thousand boxes have been settled by them at Tails 15 to 18 a picul. The probable total yield is estimated at 110,000 half-chests. Country Teas.—Choice Moyunes and Tienkals are slightly weaker, and Teamen find some difficulty in placing these qualities. Fine and finest are steady, but there is less inclination on the part of buyers to do business until some decline is established. The demand for

shops up to Tails 23 a picul continued unabated, and coarse drawing Fychows, mostly command Tails 19 1/2 to 20, showing a rise of Tails 1 to 1 1/2 a picul on previous settlements. Hysons.—The market for all qualities is unsettled with every prospect of its being glutted before the season closes. The few parcels of "curio choicest" and buyers at Tls. 23 to 24, and some business had been done in about Moyunes at Tls. 28 to 37 a picul. Bombay has taken good Fychow descriptions at about Tls. 23 a picul. The proportion of Hysons to all other descriptions of Country Teas becomes larger year by year. In the memory of many buyers still here the proportion of Hysons to others used to be from 10 to 15 per cent. The arrivals this season to date are about 37 per cent. of the total, some 60,000 half-chests out of a total of 160,000 half-chests.

Settlements reported since 28th August:—

	1-chests.	at Tls.
Pingsuey.....	10,053	21.50 at 23.50
Local packed.....	2,261	19.00 at 20.75
Fychow	2,863	19.10 at 21.75
Tienkai	6,931	20.00 at 25.00
Moyune	6,882	21.50 at 42.00

27,829 1-chests

Total Settlements from opening of the season to date are:—

	1899 x 1900.	Stock.
Pingsuey	71,806	14,828
Local packed.....	15,528	182
Fychow	9,621	
Tienkai	28,957	19,851
Moyune	29,125	
Total	150,034	34,661

	1898 x 1899.	Stock.
Pingsuey	21,258	21,444
Local packed.....	12,219	4,178
Fychow	7,947	
Tienkai	19,418	32,428
Moyune	22,880	
Total	28,722	58,025

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED KINGDOM AND CONTINENT.

	1899-1900	1898-99
Hankow and Shanghai...	5,514,030	10,608,322
Amoy.....	141,853	179,384
Foochow	9,491,174	9,734,668
Canton	2,895,664	2,370,310
Total	22,042,721	22,892,384

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1899-1900	1898-99
Shanghai	1,222,840	1,132,577
Amoy	3,734,765	3,251,051
Foochow	2,648,067	3,082,840
Total	7,605,672	7,466,468

EXPORT OF TEA FROM CHINA TO ODESSA.

	1899-1900	1898-99
Shanghai and Hankow	25,863,948	21,776,036

EXPORT OF TEA FROM JAPAN TO UNITED STATES AND CANADA.

	1899-1900	1898-99
Yokohama	17,369,231	17,019,404
Kobe	10,328,281	6,622,355
Total	27,697,512	23,641,759

SILK.

CANTON 1st September.—Re-reels.—No business has been done, but some dealers report that they have been offered \$780 for No. 1 Grand, 1 tael. —No settlements have transpired and no offers are obtainable. Filatures.—Have been almost neglected during the first part of the season, and if buyers had kept back a few days more considerable concessions might have been obtained. On Sunday and Monday last, buying was resumed at full prices and the market closes very firm. From prices paid we quote \$1,000 for 1 tael. Kee, Wing, Wo, Lun, and Wing King Lun \$114, \$985 for Min King Lun 11/13, \$980 for Wing Wo 11/13, \$970 for Kwong Lun, Fung, Kwong, Sun, On, and Kwong Wo, 11/13, \$980 for

Kwang Kwong Kee 10/12, \$940 for Po King Chong and Lee Wo Cheong 18/22. Short-reels:—Little has been done in short-reels for America. (Korea) 11/16 and 14/18 are much wanted but very scarce. Waste.—Prices are advancing steadily, \$90 per picul have been paid for Extra Extra and dealers are asking now \$92.

SHANGHAI, 9th September.—(From Messrs. A. R. Burkill & Sons Circular)—The Home market are reported firm with Blue Elephants at 12/10 and Gold Killing at Fcs. 32.25. Raw Silk.—The market is quiet, the demand being for coarse silks. Yellow Silk.—There has been a good demand and about 850 bales have been settled. Arrivals as per Customs Returns September and to 8th inst: 1,194 bales White, 662 bales Yellow and 102 Wild Silks. Re-Reels and Hand Filatures.—Business has been on a very small scale. Steam Filatures.—We do not hear of any transactions. The Export of Steam Filatures to date is: 1,522 bales to America, 1,254 bales to the Continent, 32 bales to London, and 1 bale to Japan. Wild Silk.—About 30 bales have changed hands. Waste Silk.—Market quiet, stocks almost nil.

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO EUROPE.

	1898-1900	1898-99
Shanghai	36,614	21,601
Canton	9,280	8,297
Yokohama	6,368	4,251
	52,162	34,049

EXPORT OF SILK FROM CHINA AND JAPAN TO AMERICA.

	1898-1900	1898-9
Shanghai	4,372	1,852
Canton	3,256	3,343
Yokohama	8,803	3,861
	14,333	9,056

CAMPBOR.

HONGKONG, 15th September.—The market has slightly improved under the influence of a demand. Quotation for Forinos are \$68.00 to \$68.50 sales 500 piculs.

SUGAR.

HONGKONG, 15th September.—The market has again been active and a further advance in prices has to be recorded. Quotations are:—
Shetloong, No. 1, White... \$8.65 to \$8.70 cl.
do. " 2, White... 7.93 to 7.97 "
Shetloong, No. 1, Brown... 5.85 to 5.88 pcl.
do. " 2, Brown... 5.65 to 5.70 "
Swatow, No. 1, White... 8.45 to 8.50 "
do. " 1, White... 7.85 to 7.90 "
Swatow, No. 1, Brown... 5.75 to 5.80 "
do. " 2, Brown... 5.65 to 5.70 "
Fuchow Sugar Candy... 12.50 to 12.55 "
S. K. Sugar... 11.75 to 11.80 "

MISCELLANEOUS EXPORTS.

Per steamer *Stator*, sailed on the 8th September. For London—2,389 boxes tea (30,169 lbs. So. caper), 6 cases feathers, 136 cases Chinaware, 30 cases blackwoodware, 1,350 bales hemp and 8 cases cigars from Manila, 624 packages pierced shell, 11 packages sundries, 22 bales feathers, 27 bales mats and bags, 200 bales waste silk, 1,043 cases preserves, 450 cases ginger, 150 bales cones, 9 cases feathers, 1 case silk, and 5 cases private effects. For London and/or Manchester—300 bales waste silk. For London and/or Liverpool and/or Glasgow—100 cases ginger. For and/or Antwerp and/or Hamburg—92 boxes bristles. For Liverpool—3 cases blackwoodware, 300 cases ginger, 10 packages merchandise, and 1 package cigars. For Glasgow—175 cases ginger. For Manchester—50 bales waste silk and 21 cases cigars from Manila. For Hamburg—3,000 boxes tea, 25 boxes bristles, and 3,000 cases. For Bremen—100 boxes tea. For Antwerp—58 bales split hampers.

Per P. & O. steamer *Formosa*, sailed on the 8th September. For London—2 cases cigars from Manila, 2,023 boxes tea (63,483 lbs. So. caper), 3 boxes feathers, 1 case bird's feathers, 62 cases Chinaware, 41 cases blackwoodware, 20 rolls matting, 20 cases tea sticks, 1 box silverware, 4 boxes curios, 2 cases vases, 1 case blackwood stand, 1 case earthenware, and 3,031 cases preserves. For Manchester—50 bales waste silk. For Amsterdam—8 cases blackwoodware.

Per steamer *Ernest Simon*, on the 9th September. For St. Etienne—10 bales raw silk. For Milan—85 raw silk. For Marseilles—111 bales raw silk, 3 cases silks, 592 packages tea, 184 packages canes, and 267 bales waste silk. For Lyons—530 bales raw silk and 1 case silks. For London—0 bales raw silk and 2 cases silk.

OPIMUM.

HONGKONG, 15th September.—Bengal.—There has been a rise in prices during the interval, and at the close of the week there has been a large amount of business done. Closing quotations are:—New Patna \$852, New Benares \$825.

Malwa.—A fair amount of business has been done. Latest rates are:—
New \$780 with alic of — to 2 catties
Old (2 yrs.) \$800 " " " to 2 "
" (3/4 ") \$810 " " " to 3/4 "
" (5/6 ") \$830 " " " 1 to 2 "
" (7/8 ") \$850 " " " 1/2 to 2 "

Persian.—A fair amount of business was done in this drug. Closing figures are:—Oily \$850 and Paper-tied \$650 to \$770 according to quality. To-day's stocks are estimated as under:—

New Patna	916 chests
Old Patna	106 "
New Benares	406 "
Malwa	829 "
Persian	832 "

COURSE OF THE HONGKONG OPIUM MARKET.

DATE.	PATNA.		BENARES.		MALWA.	
	New.	Old.	New.	Old.	New.	Old.
1899.	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$	\$
Sept. 9	845	—	822	—	780	—
Sept. 10	840	—	822	—	780	—
Sept. 11	837	—	815	—	780	—
Sept. 12	840	—	815	—	780	—
Sept. 13	850	—	820	—	780	—
Sept. 14	852	—	822	—	780	—
Sept. 15	852	—	825	—	780	—

COTTON.

HONGKONG, 15th September.—Superior qualities met with a rise of 1/4; medium and inferior neglected. Stocks, about 4,500 bales.

Bombay..... 16.00 to 17.00 picul.
Kurrachee..... — to — "
Bengal (New), Rangoon, } 17.00 to 20.00 picul.
and Dacca "
Shanghai and Japanese, ... 20.00 to 21.00 "
Tungchow and Ningpo..... 20.00 to 21.00 "
Ma-ras (Best) — to — "
Sales: 950 bales Bengal (Rangoon, new), and Dacca.

RICE.

HONGKONG, 15th September.—An active demand and having been experienced the market has an upward tendency. Quotations are:—

Saigon, Ordinary..... \$2.35 to 2.40
" Round, Good quality 2.80 to 2.85
" Long 3.20 to 3.25
Siam, Field, mill cleaned, No. 2 ... 2.85 to 2.90
" Garden, " No. 1 ... 3.31 to 3.34
" White 3.63 to 3.65
" Fine Cargo..... 3.90 to 3.95

COALS.

HONGKONG, 15th September.—Small sales of Japanese on private terms are reported. Quotations are:—

Cardiff..... \$18.00 to — ex ship, nominal
Australian..... 11.00 to — ex ship, nominal
Milk Lump } 9.00 to 9.50 nominal
and Small } "
Mojilump .. 6.25 to 8.50 ex ship, quiet
Hongay double } 12.00 to — ex godown
screened "
Hongay Lump } 8.00 to 8.50 ex ship
Hongay Dust... 5.50 to — "
Briquettes 10.50 to — ex godown

MISCELLANEOUS IMPORTS.

HONGKONG, 14th September.—Among the sales reported during the week are the following:—

YARN AND PIECE GOODS.—Bombay Yarn:—1650 bales No. 10 at \$74 to \$84, 780 bales No. 12 at \$68 to \$82.75, 150 bales No. 16 at \$85 to \$97, 950 bales No. 20 at \$91 to \$96.50. Grey Shirtings:—1,000 pieces 10 lbs. 2 Stag at \$4.02, 1,000 pieces 10 lbs. C.W. W. Syce at \$4.10. White Shirtings:—500 pieces G. 9 at \$4.27, 500 pieces Elephant and Lee at \$5.50. T. Cloths:—2,250 pieces Red Stag at \$2.40.

SHANGHAI 9th September.—(From Messrs. Noel Murray & Co.'s Price Goods Trade Report.)—The state of idleness into which our market has drifted during the past few weeks as depicted

in our last report, has been intensified during the week, and we have again practically no business to report, all enquiry being virtually at a standstill. The reason for this condition of affairs is quiet apparent when one considers the abnormal strength of prices on the Home markets and the unsteadiness of exchange, to which has to be added the apathy of dealers in speaking about new contracts. Demand from Tientsin is quite at a standstill, dealers there being busy with the adjustment of their accounts for the usual mid-autumn settlement, which falls this year on 19th instant, and until that is over there is no desire on their part to add to their present holding, although, as far as it is known locally, there will be little or no trouble in the matter. News from Newchwang points to a complicated state of affairs there. From native sources we learn that the position, as far as the Piece Goods market is concerned, is sound and strong, but against this it is announced on Foreign authority that the deaths from the recent outbreak of plague were far more numerous than reported, and that most stringent precautions are being taken to prevent its extending to other ports. There is nothing worthy of mention about the River or Ningpo markets which remain very quiet. Clearances to the various Outports continue to be made on a satisfactory scale, those for Korea being much better than for some months past. The Yarn market remains steady, there being little inclination on the part of holders to sell at present prices. Japanese.—There has again been some enquiry for these and about 1,500 bales have changed hands. No. 16s. at T68.80/69.50 and No. 20s. at T69.00/70.00. The market closes firm at quotation. Local.—There has been rather more done in these during the week and sales amounting to 1,150 bales are made public. More could have been sold but holders do not care to accept the prices offered until something more definite is known about the prospect of the local Cotton crop.

METALS 11th September.—(From Messrs. Alex. Biefield & Co.'s Circular)—During the past week there has been but the usual small business, the prolonged rain being blamed by the middlemen for the small demand for the consuming districts. Still the out-goings are greater than the incoming, and stocks in hands are being gradually reduced. Home prices for New Irons are a trifle flat, but for all old materials they remain firm. Spot prices still continue much below present laying down cost, but this must be altered when the spot stocks are exhausted. The following are the only transactions we have to report:—50 tons Old Iron Chains 105s. c.i.f. and c. 75 tons Hard Spelter Tls. 10.00. 2,500 cases Tin Plates, to arrive, Tls. 6.70 to 6.80.

JOINT STOCK SHARES.

HONGKONG, 15th September.—The market has ruled quieter during the week and rates weaker. A fair business was transacted in the early part, but towards the end of the week it slackened considerably and the market closes dull and quiet.

BANKS.—Hongkong and Shanghai.—A few shares changed hands at 353 per cent. prem. cash and at 355 for settlements, but the rate quickly fell to 350 on receipt of unsatisfactory political news and the market closes quiet at that rate. The London rate remains unchanged at 262. Nationals are enquired for at 262 without bringing out sellers.

MARINE INSURANCES.—China Traders continue in demand at 86, but no sales are reported. Unions have changed hands at \$260 and Cantons at \$150 and \$151. Straits remain quiet at quotations with sales at \$54. The Northern Insurances have ruled steady with no local business.

FIRE INSURANCES.—Hongkong are still in demand and small sales have been effected at \$330 and \$335. Chinas remain quiet at \$88 with small sales and sellers.

SHIPPING.—Hongkong, Canton and Macao continue quiet and out of favour at \$31 1/2 with but few sales. Indos, which have ruled very firm, advanced to \$72 after sales at \$71 and \$71 1/2, but close quieter at \$71. Douglasses have found buyers at \$52, but more shares are on offer at that rate. In last report under this heading "six months ended 30th June" should read "twelve months ended 31st June." China Manilas and China Mutuals unchanged and

REFINERIES.—China Sugars remain dull and neglected with small sales at \$148 cash. Luzons unchanged and without business.

MINING.—Panjoms improved in the early part of the week to \$9.25 after fair sales at without business. The latter Co. announces a dividend of 3 per cent. on preference shares.

\$8.50 and \$8.75; at time of closing shares are obtainable at \$9. Charbonnages continue neglected and without business. Queens have changed hands at 47½ cents. Jebeus at from \$13 to \$18.75. Olivers at \$7.50. Great Easterns at \$3 and \$2.80, and Raubs at \$64. The Raub crushing for July and August is advised as 1,600 oz. from 2,550 tons.

DOCKS, WHARVES, AND GODOWNS.—Hongkong and Whampoa Docks have ruled quieter with sellers and no sales at 540 per cent. prem. Kowloon Wharves have been negotiated at \$99 and \$100 cash, and at \$103 for 31st December. Wanchais unchanged with no sales.

LANDS, HOTELS, AND BUILDINGS.—Hongkong Lands have ruled very firm with sales and buyers at \$114, and close steady at \$115. Hotels remain quiet at \$135 with but few sales. West Points have been placed at \$354 and \$35 and Humphreys at \$125, the latter closing in demand at the latter rate.

COTTONS MILLS. With no local business, quotations (except for Hongkong) are taken from last Shanghai circulars.

MISCELLANEOUS.—Green Islands have been placed at \$30, Watsons at \$18.85, Electrics at \$13, and China Providents at \$9.75.

Closing quotations are as follows:—

COMPANY.	PAID UP.	QUOTATIONS.
Banks—		
Hongkong & Shanghai	\$125	350 p. ct. prem.,=
China & Japan, ordy.	£4	£1.
Do. deferred	£1	£5 5a.
Natl. Bank of China		
B. Shares	£8	\$26. buyers
Poun. Shares	£8	\$26. buyers
Bell's Asbestos E. A.	£1	nominal
Campbell, Moore & Co.	\$10	\$4. buyers
China Prov. L. & M.	\$10	\$9.75. sellers
China Sugar	\$100	\$148. sal. & sellers
Cotton Mills—		
Ewo	Tls. 100	Tls. 68
International	Tls. 100	Tls. 75
Laou Kung Mow	Tls. 100	Tls. 77½
Soychee	Tls. 500	Tls. 350
Yahloong	Tls. 100	Tls. 57½
Hongkong	\$100	\$85. sellers
Dairy Farm	\$6	\$5.25. buyers
Fenwick & Co., Geo.	\$25	\$43. sellers
Green Island Cement	\$10	\$3. sales & sellers
H. & C. Bakery	\$50	\$25.
Hongkong & C. Gas	£10	\$127.
Hongkong Electric	\$10	\$13. sales & sellers
H. H. L. Tramways	\$ 00	\$147½. buyers
Hongkong Hotel	\$50	\$135.
Hongkong Ice	\$25	\$130. sellers
H. & K. Wharf & G.	\$50	\$99. sellers
Hongkong Rope	\$50	\$190. buyers
H. & W. Dock	\$125	\$540 p. ct. p. em.=
Insurance—		
Canton	\$50	\$150. sellers
China Fire	\$20	\$88. sales sellers
China Traders	\$25	\$64. buyers
Hongkong Fire	\$50	\$335.
North-China	£25	Tls. 200. buyers
Straits	\$20	\$54. sales & sellers
Union	\$50	\$260. sal. & buyers
Yangtze	\$60	\$122½.
Land and Building—		
Hongkong Land Inv.	\$50	\$115. buyers
Humphreys Estate	\$10	\$104. buyers
Kowloon Land & B.	\$30	\$29.
West Point Building	\$50	\$35. sellers
Luzon Sugar	\$100	\$54. sellers
Mining—		
Charbonnages	Fcs. 250	\$240. seller
Gt. Estn. & C'donian	\$5	\$1.80. sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	80 cts. sellers
Jebeu	\$5	\$13.65. buyers
Queen's Mines Ltd.	25c.	47½ cts. sellers
Oliver's Mines, A.	\$5	\$10. buyers
Do. B.	\$4½	\$7.50. buyers
Punjom	\$6	\$9. sellers
Do. Preference	\$1	\$2.
Raubs	15s. 10d.	\$63.
New Amoy Dock	\$6½	\$18
Steamship Coys.—		
China and Manila	\$50	\$90. sellers
China Mutual Pref.	£10	£ 0s. buyers
China Ordinary	£10	£7. 0s. buyers
Do.	£5	£3. 10s. buyers
Douglas Steamship	\$50	\$12. sellers
H. Canton and M.	\$15	\$314. sellers
Indo-China S. N.	£10	\$72. sellers
Star Ferry	\$7½	\$19½.
Tebrau Planting Co.	\$5	\$5. sellers
Do.	\$3	\$4. sellers
United Asbestos	\$2	\$2½. buyers
Do.	\$10	\$10. nominal
Wanchai Warehouse	\$37½	\$4. buyers
Watson & Co., A. S.	\$10	\$16.85. buyers

J. Y. V. VERNON, Broker.

SHANGHAI, 11th September. (From Messrs. J. P. Bisset & Co.'s Report).—Business has been rather quieter this week, and was mostly confined to Indo-China and Shanghai and Hongkong Wharf shares. Banks.—Hongkong and Shanghai Banking Corporation.—Only one sale was made, to Hongkong, at 357 per cent. premium, with exchange 72½. National Bank of China shares were sold to Hongkong at \$25½. Marine Insurance.—North-Chinas were sold at Tls. 200, and are wanted. Yangtze shares were purchased from Hongkong at \$118, and changed hands locally at \$120. Cantons were sold to Hongkong at \$150. Fire Insurance.—China Fire Insurance shares were sold at \$30½. Hongkong's changed hands in Hongkong at \$315.312½, and are wanted at the lower rate. Shipping.—Indo-China S. N. shares have changed hands to a fair extent at Tls. 52 cash, Tls. 53 for October, and Tls. 54/55 for December. Douglas Steamship shares are obtainable at \$53. Sugars.—Perak Sugar Cultivation shares changed hands at Tls. 61 cash, and Tls. 67 for December. China Sugar Refining shares went down to \$149 ex div., at which shares are offering. Luzon Sugar refining shares are obtainable at \$54. Docks, Wharves and Godowns.—Shares in Boyd & Co. were sold at Tls. 190 and Tls. 192½. S. C. Farnham & Co., Ltd.—Shares have changed hands at Tls. 215. Hongkong and Whampoa Dock shares were sold, to Hongkong, at 520 and 547½ per cent. premium. Shanghai and Hongkong Wharf shares changed hands at Tls. 237½, 240 and 237½ cash and for the 30th current, and Tls. 245 for December. Hongkong and Kowloon Wharf and Godown shares were sold in Hongkong at \$100, closing with sellers. Lands.—Shanghai Land Investment shares were placed at Tls. 82½. Hongkong Land Investment shares were sold, to Hongkong, at \$18. There are now buyers at \$11. Humphreys's Estate and Finance share changed hands at \$10.40, and West Point Building shares were purchased from Hongkong at \$35.50. Industrial.—Business in Cotton Mill shares was confined to a sale of Ewo shares at Tls. 68. Laou-kung mow shares are wanted at Tls. 77½, and held for Tls. 80. Shanghai Gas shares were placed at Tls. 200 and Tls. 05. Shanghai I. e. shares, New Issue, were sold at Tls. 30.50, for cash on delivery of the scrip. China Flour Mill shares have improved to Tls. 82.50, at which some changed hands. The Shanghai Feather Clearing Co. having been placed in Liquidation, we remove it from our list. Tugs and Cargo Boats.—Taku Tug and Lighter shares were sold at Tls. 80. Miscellaneous.—Shanghai-Sumatra Tobacco shares were placed at Tls. 55. Shanghai-Langkai Tobacco shares have been sold at irregular rates, Tls. 155 and Tls. 135 cash, and Tls. 160 and Tls. 135 for September. Hall and Holtz shares changed hands at \$36. Loans.—Shanghai Land Investment 5.50 per cent. Debentures were sold at Tls. 95, and 6 per cent. at Tls. 102; and Shanghai-Langkai 10 per cent. Debentures at Tls. 100.

EXCHANGE.

FRIDAY, 15th September.

ON LONDON.	
Telegraphic Transfer	1/11½
Bank Bills, on demand	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 30 days' sight	1/11½
Bank Bills, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Credits, at 4 months' sight	1/11½
Documentary Bills, 4 months' sight	1/11½
ON PARIS.	
Bank Bills, on demand	2.46
Credits, at 4 months' sight	2.50½
ON GERMANY.	
On demand	1.99½
ON NEW YORK.	
Bank Bills, on demand	47½
Credits, 60 days' sight	48½
ON BOMBAY.	
Telegraphic Transfer	145
Bank, on demand	145½
ON CALCUTTA.	
Telegraphic Transfer	145
Bank, on demand	145½
ON SHANGHAI.	
Bank, at sight	72½
Private, 30 days' sight	73½

ON YOKOHAMA.	
On demand	4½ p. m.
ON MANILA.	
On demand	2½ p. m.
ON SINGAPORE.	
On demand	1½ p. m.
SOVEREIGNS. Bank's Buying Rate	10.14
GOLD LEAF, 100 fine, per tola	55.00

TONNAGE.

HONGKONG, 15th September.—There has been a good demand for tonnage in several directions during the last two weeks. Saigon to Hongkong, the rate went up to 21 cents per picul, but has since dropped to 19½ cents, to Java 28 cents per picul, for prompt loading. Java to Hongkong, 25 cents per picul. Newchwang to Canton, one fixture has been effected at 30 cents per picul, immediate loading; for October only 29 cents per picul is offered. Moji to Hongkong, steamers are wanted at \$2.25 per ton. Sailing tonnage.—Hence to Hongkong, 14s. 6d. might be obtained for October for 50 cubic feet. Callao 27s. 6d. per ton of 50 cubic feet.

There are two vessels in port registering 4,778 tons.

The following are the settlements:—

Swatow—German steamer, 124 tons, three trips Newchwang to Amoy, 93 cents per picul.

Ingraham—German steamer, 894 tons, three trips Newchwang to Amoy, 92 cents per picul.

A China Navigation Co.'s steamer, Newchwang to Canton, 30 cents per picul.

Kueiyang—British steamer, 1,062 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 30 cents per picul.

Kaifong—British steamer, 998 tons, Newchwang to Canton, 30 cents per picul.

Taifu—German steamer, 1,065 tons, Kuchinotzu to Swatow, \$2.30 per ton.

Salahadj—Dutch steamer, 1,471 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2.15 per ton.

Telemaehus—Dutch steamer, 1,478 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2.25 per ton.

Thyra—Norwegian steamer, 2,474 tons, Moji to Hongkong, \$2.3 per ton.

Propontis—British steamer, 1,390 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 19 cents per picul.

Equatoria—Belgian steamer, 1,087 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul.

Fusang—British steamer, 1,410 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul.

On Sang—British steamer, 1,587 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul.

Kong Beng—British steamer, 862 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul.

Taifu—German steamer, 1,065 tons, Saigon to Hongkong, 20 cents per picul.

Menmuir—British steamer, 1,287 tons, Saigon to one port north coast Java, 23 cents per picul; two ports north coast Java to Hongkong, 35 cents per picul.

Benlawers—British steamer, 1,484 tons, 2/3 ports north coast Java to Yokohama, 44 cents per picul.

VESSELS ON THE BEATH.

For LONDON.—Bengal (str.), Pyrus (str.), Sarpedon (str.), Candia (str.), Canton (str.), Sado Maru (str.).

For BREMEN.—Sachsen (str.).

For MARSEILLE.—Kongawa Maru (str.), Sado Maru (str.), Indus (str.), Malaya (str.).

For HAYRE AND HAMBURG.—Narbergh (str.), Sueria (str.), Savvia (str.), Serbia (str.).

For SAN FRANCISCO.—China (str.), Hongkong Maru (str.), Oakleaf City (str.).

For VANCOUVER.—Empress of Japan (str.).

For VICTORIA, B.C., VIA SHANGHAI.—Glenhope (str.).

For VICTORIA, B.C., AND SEATTLE.—Borneo Maru (str.).

For PORTLAND, O.—Monmouth (str.).

For NEW YORK.—Pisa (str.), Argos (str.), Governor Robt. Josephus, St. James (str.), Challenger, Ping Seng (str.).

For AUSTRALIA.—Futaba Maru (str.), Sado Maru (str.), Airis (str.).

For SINGAPORE, PENANG, AND CALCUTTA.—Lightning (str.).

SHIPPING.

ARRIVALS AND DEPARTURES SINCE LAST MAIL.

HONGKONG.

September—ARRIVALS.

- 9, Cheang H. Kian, British str., from S'pore.
 9, Siam, British str., from Saigon.
 9, Shansi, British str., from Manila.
 9, Taichow, British str., from Bangkok.
 9, Ohunsang, British str., from Java.
 9, Laos, French str., from Marseilles.
 9, Nanyang, German str., from Amoy.
 10, Bellerophon, British str., from Amoy.
 10, Hongkong, French str., from Haiphong.
 10, Lightning, British str., from Calcutta.
 10, Thales, British str., from Foochow.
 10, Tsurugisan Maru, Jap. str., from K'notsu.
 10, Wingsang, British str., from Canton.
 10, Yangching, Chinese str., from Canton.
 10, Triumph, German str., from Hoihow.
 11, Hanoi, French str., from Pakhoi.
 11, Keongwai, British str., from Saigon.
 11, Talle, German str., from Manila.
 11, Ariake Maru, Jap. str., from Kutohinotsu.
 11, Hohenzollern, German str., from Y'hama.
 11, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Shanghai.
 11, Loongmoon, German str., from Shanghai.
 11, Savoia, German str., from Hamburg.
 11, Marie Valerie, Aust. str., from Singapore.
 11, Riojun Maru, Japan str., from Moji.
 11, Preussen, German str., from Shanghai.
 12, Mongkut, British str., from Bangkok.
 12, Haiching, British str., from Tamsui.
 12, Unity, Norwegian str., from Samarang.
 12, Empress of Japan, Brit. str., from Vancouver.
 12, Charterhouse, British str., from Straits.
 12, Woosung, British str., from Swatow.
 12, Challenger, Amr. ship, from Manila.
 13, Anping, Chinese str., from Canton.
 13, Hating, French str., from Haiphong.
 13, Kawachi Maru, Jap. str., from London.
 13, Glenfarg, British str., from London.
 13, Rosetta, British str., from Yokohama.
 13, Sabine Rickmers, Brit. str., from Shanghai.
 13, Maidsura Maru, Jap. str., from Tamsui.
 13, Hermes, Norwegian str., from Tientsin.
 13, Kachidate Maru, Jap. str., from K'notsu.
 13, Picciola, German str., from Saigon.
 13, Clara, German str., from Hoihow.
 13, Deuteros, German str., from Saigon.
 13, Hongkong Maru, Jap. str., from S. F'cisco.
 13, Kong Beng, British str., from Saigon.
 13, Moyune, British str., from Birkenhead.
 14, Alexia, German str., from Shanghai.
 14, Haimun, British str., from Tamsui.
 14, Salvadora, Amr. str., from Manila.
 14, Suevia, German str., from Swatow.
 14, Bengal, British str., from Shanghai.
 15, Loongmoon, German str., from Canton.
 15, Yikang, British str., from Swatow.
 15, Kwanglee, Chinese str., from Canton.
 15, Coromandel, British str., from Bombay.
 15, Yuensang, British str., from Manila.
 15, Thales, British str., from Swatow.
 15, Triumph, German str., from Swatow.
 15, Tataros, German str., from Saigen.
 15, Hailan, French str., from Manila.

September—DEPARTURES.

- 9, Ernest Simons, French str., for Europe.
 9, Anping, Chinese str., for Canton.
 9, Chingwo, British str., for London.
 9, Hong Leong, British str., for Amoy.
 9, Calchas, British str., for Shanghai.
 9, Chihli, British str., for Shanghai.
 9, Nanchang, British str., for Chefoo.
 9, Airlie, British str., for Kobe.
 9, Shansi, British str., for Shanghai.
 9, Loyal, German str., for Hongay.
 9, John Anderson, British str., for London.
 9, Laos, French str., for Shanghai.
 10, Sullberg, German str., for Chefoo.
 10, Progress, German str., for Tournon.
 10, Phra Nang, British str., for Bangkok.
 10, Chowtai, British str., for Bangkok.
 10, Sungkiang, British str., for Manila.
 10, Tamsui Maru, Jap. str., for Swatow.
 10, Hallonog, British str., for Swatow.
 10, Hoihao, French str., for Hoihow.
 10, Menmuir, British str., for Saigon.
 10, Cheang Hock Kian, Brit. str., for Hoihao.
 10, Orlando, British cruiser, for Yokohama.
 11, Suicang, British str., for Calcutta.
 11, Bellerophon, British str., for Samarang.
 12, Triumph, German str., for Swatow.
 12, Nanyang, German str., for Swatow.
 12, Loongmoon, German str., for Canton.

- 12, Hinsang, British str., for Samarang.
 12, Pakshan, British str., for Swatow.
 12, Wingsang, British str., for Swatow.
 12, Yungching, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 12, Ingraban, German str., for Newchwang.
 13, Proussen, German str., for Europe.
 13, Hongkong, French str., for Hoihow.
 13, Thales, British str., for Swatow.
 13, P. C. C. Klao, British str., for Swatow.
 13, Savoia, German str., for Yokohama.
 13, Woosung, British str., for Canton.
 13, Ariake Maru, Japanese str., for Moji.
 13, Onsang, British str., for Saigon.
 13, Marie Valerie, Aust. str., for Shanghai.
 14, Tailes, German str., for Hongay.
 14, Siam, British str., for Amoy.
 14, Tsurugisan Maru, Jap. str., for K'notsu.
 14, Charterhouse, British str., for Amoy.
 14, Anping, Chinese str., for Shanghai.
 14, Daphne, German str., for Nagasaki.
 14, Haiching, British str., for Swatow.
 14, Hermes, Norw. str., for Canton.
 14, Hanoi, French str., for Hoihow.
 14, Esmeralda, British str., for Manila.
 15, Tartar, British str., for San Francisco.
 15, Sabine Rickmers, British str., for Swatow.
 15, Moyune, British str., for Shanghai.
 15, Kawachi Maru, Japanese str., for Kobe.
 15, Kachitate Maru, Jap. str., for K'notsu.
 15, Hating, French str., for Hoihow.
 15, Clara, German str., for Haiphong.

PASSENGER LIST.

ARRIVED.

- Per *Lightning*, from Calcutta, &c., Lieut. Wallace.
 Per *Thales*, from Coast Ports, Dr. and Mrs. Clarke, Mr. Hai, Masters Shaw and Begley.
 Per *Laos*, for Hongkong, from Marseilles, Revs. Grisel, Coste, Marie, Verdeille, Margin, Delorme, and Gelies; from Batavia, Mr. Gridamus; from Singapore, Rev. de Santos, Messrs. Sing Keng Woo, Tunk Puck Soo, Tan Ven Lan, Yen Keong Wah, and Ma Poo Yen; from Saigon, Mr. Lan Lue; for Shanghai, from Marseilles, Mr. Verandard, Consul Aparicio, Messrs. Marc Zahn, Ch. Munster, J. Gipson, C. Piaget, L. Van Neck, F. Caissial, H. V. Hanebock, Mrs. Tholbeck, Messrs. Gelis, Stuman, Thomas, Rinohard, Kegaert, and Pedro Sanchez; from Singapore, Mr. and Mrs. Chen Seck Weg and 2 children; for Nagasaki, from Singapore, Mrs. Oking, Messrs. Ohoyoto, Sodako, and Osada; for Kobe, Mr. Kan Hong Kein, Mr. and Mrs. Yokohama; for Yokohama, from Bombay, Mr. Yokolake; from Marseilles, Consul and Mrs. Chausson and infant, Messrs. Hoo Wei Tel, Laohai, Ludwig Reiss, and Lai Wa Men.
 Per *Loongmoon*, from Shanghai, Messrs. Bielenhall, Taylor, and Müller.
 Per *Hohenzollern*, from Japan, Mrs. Sachse, Miss Underwood, Messrs. Meto, C. P. Pavio, Miss S. Ormer, and Mr. H. Handemann.
 Per *Marie Valerie*, from Singapore, Mr. H. Windrath.
 Per *Biojun Maru*, from Moji, Mrs. F. L. Rodger and two children.
 Per *Empress of Japan*, from Vancouver, Rev. D. and Mrs. Park, Mrs. L. Montford, Mr. W. J. Wright, Rev. W. A. and Mrs. Briggs and 2 children, Miss M. Huas, Rev. J. and Mrs. Waite, and Rev. A. Waite; from Yokohama, Major and Mrs. Koe, Misses Koe (2), Col. and Mrs. McCaskey, Mr. R. F. A. Hastings, Capt. R. Morris, and Mr. Hutchins; from Kobe, Messrs. J. D. Danby, S. Haughton, E. Kellen, Mrs. and Miss Sayer; from Shanghai, Lieut. Castle, Messrs. R. W. Loman, S. Mills, T. F. Hough, A. P. MacEwen, F. W. Newson, Miss Lukus, and Mr. D. Wiesenberger.
 Per *Preussen*, for Hongkong, from Shanghai, Messrs. P. G. von Moellendorff, J. Thyen, A. E. Clarton, and J. G. Waymouth, Mrs. Baptista, Mrs. Rodrigues, and Mr. Ting Chow; from Foochow, Mr. O. Arpe; from Shanghai, for for Singapore, Mr. E. Heidenheimer; for Colombo, Mr. Benedicter; for Genoa, Mrs. von Moellendorff and 3 daughters, Messrs. H. Witte, C. Badewig, K. Schmidt, and N. P. Navajilaff; from Foochow, Mr. K. G. Naugalnukoff; for Southampton, from Shanghai, Messrs. Dent, R. G. Hamilton, T. Prentice, G. Williams, and A. Kirchheimer, Mrs. L. A. Gaynar, Mrs. A. E. Clarton and 2 children, Mr. and Mrs. C. Blades; for Bremen, Mrs. R. Heintze, Messrs. O. Maschke and F. Moehraw, Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Meyer, and Mr. Sander.

Per *Kawachi Maru*, from London, Messrs. Ross, Scharmann, Ohlsen, Noebel, Sorensen, and Mrs. Igarashki.

Per *Rosetta*, from Yokohama, Messrs. J. J. Collins, J. P. Vasco, C. Jackson, Mrs. Kingwell, and Mr. Lee Ming Shing.

Per *Glenfarg*, from London, &c., Messrs. Vernon, R. V., Petts, R.N., Johnstone, R.N., Franklin, R.N., and T. Ryan, for Tonkin.

Per *Hongkong Maru*, from San Francisco, &c., Mrs. E. B. Gose, Lieut. J. H. Rowen, Mrs. H. Avery, Mr. F. H. Hilbert, Mrs. H. S. Biddle and infant, Messrs. C. M. Jenkins and A. E. Katsch, Mrs. H. G. Bishop, and Capt. S. Tomioka.

Per *Haimun*, from Tamsui, &c., Messrs. Weneson and Mehta.

Per *Suevia*, from Swatow, Captain Burney, and Engineer Coghlan.

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DEPARTED.

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Per *Haiching*, for Swatow, Messrs. John Thyen and Foo Tung Kow; for Foochow, Mr. F. Vetch.

Per *Kawachi Maru*, for Nagasaki, Mr. S. Nakamura and child; for Kobe, Mr. S. Ninani, Dr. Kono, Messrs. Lee King, Kow Sing, and R. Asai; for Yokohama, Mr. H. Ohnishi, Dr. A. H. Nathan, Mr. Wm. Sprick, Mr. H. Schaub, Capt. Simmonds, and Miss Boorman.

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